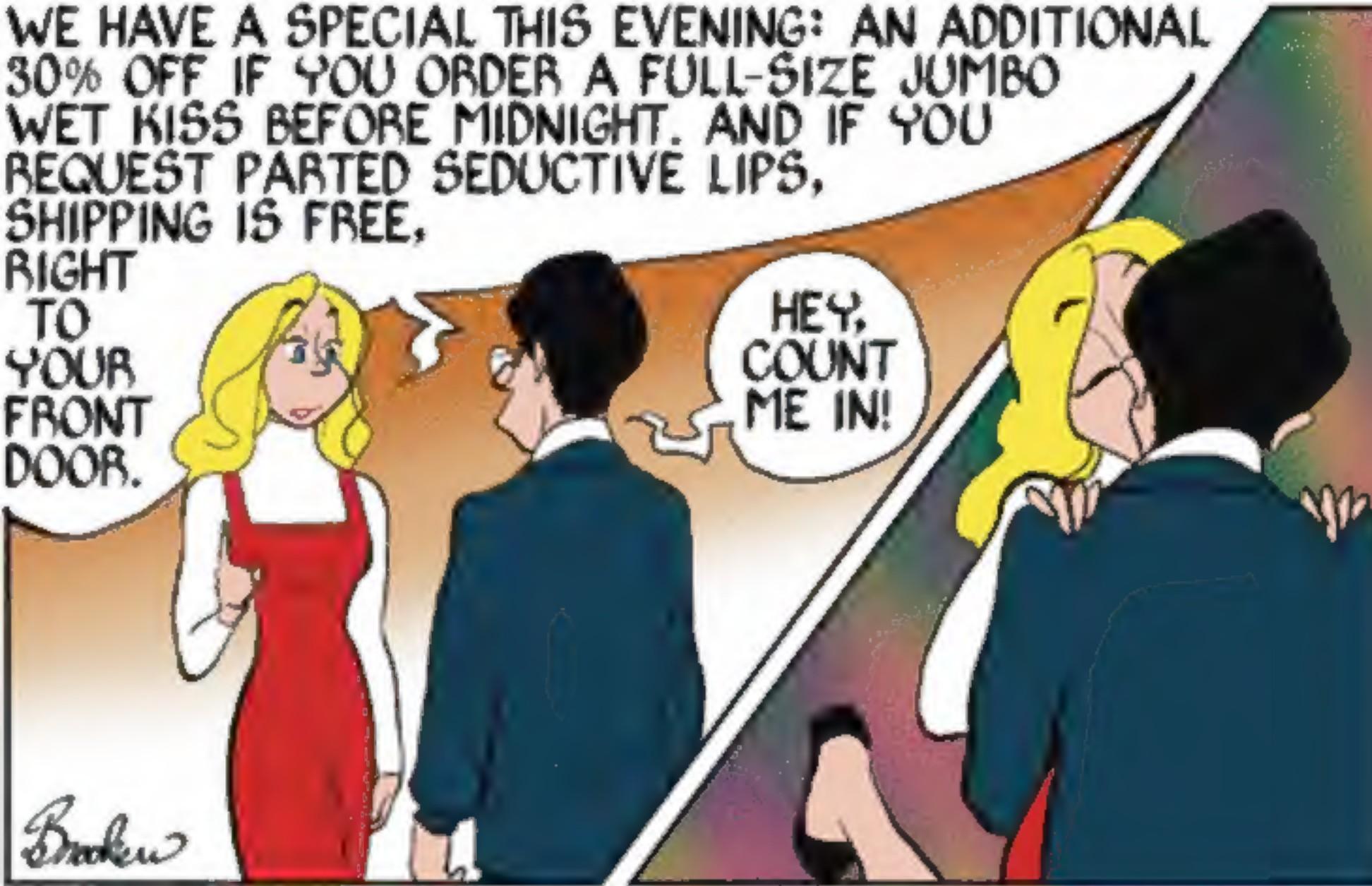
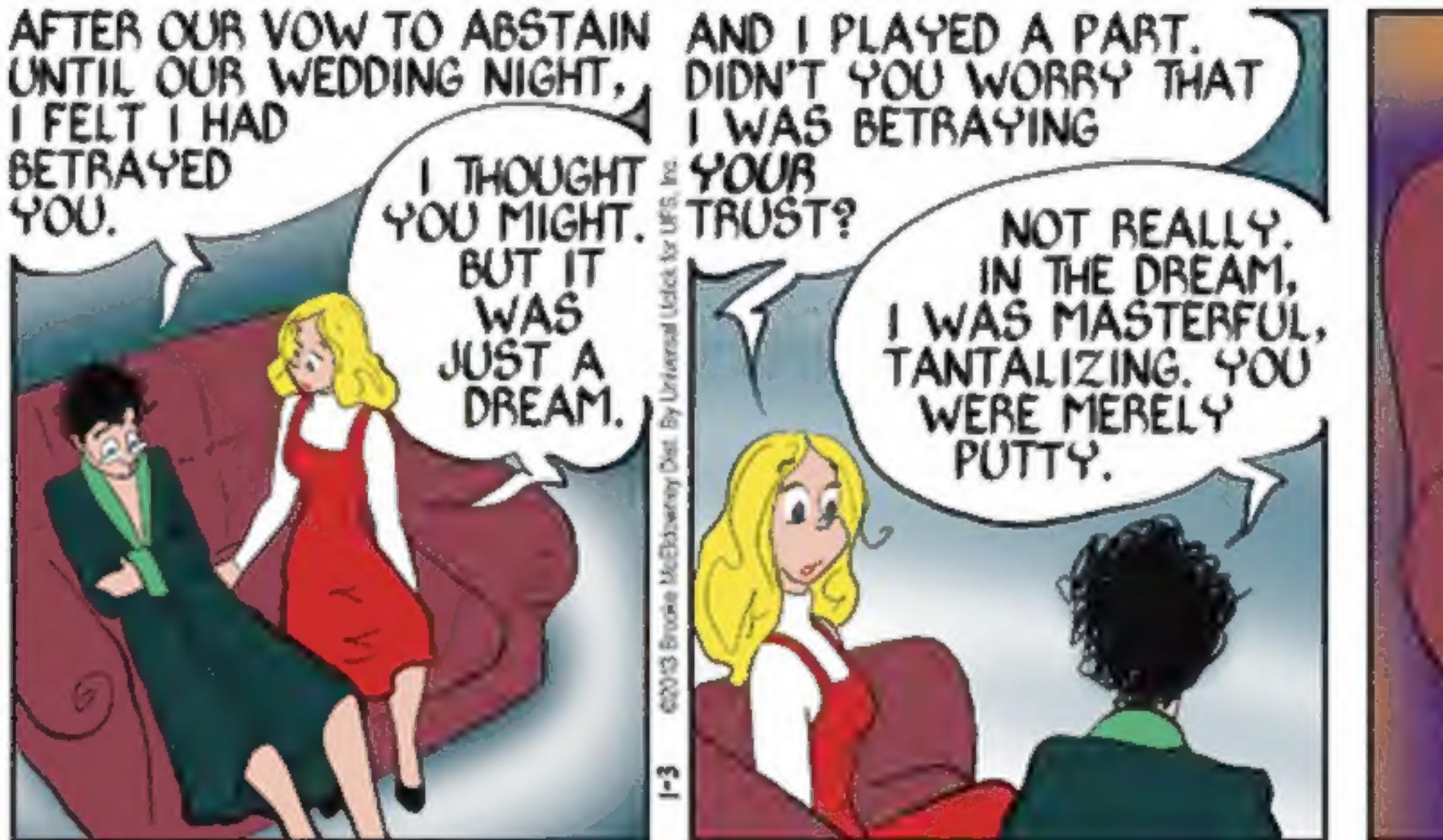




2013





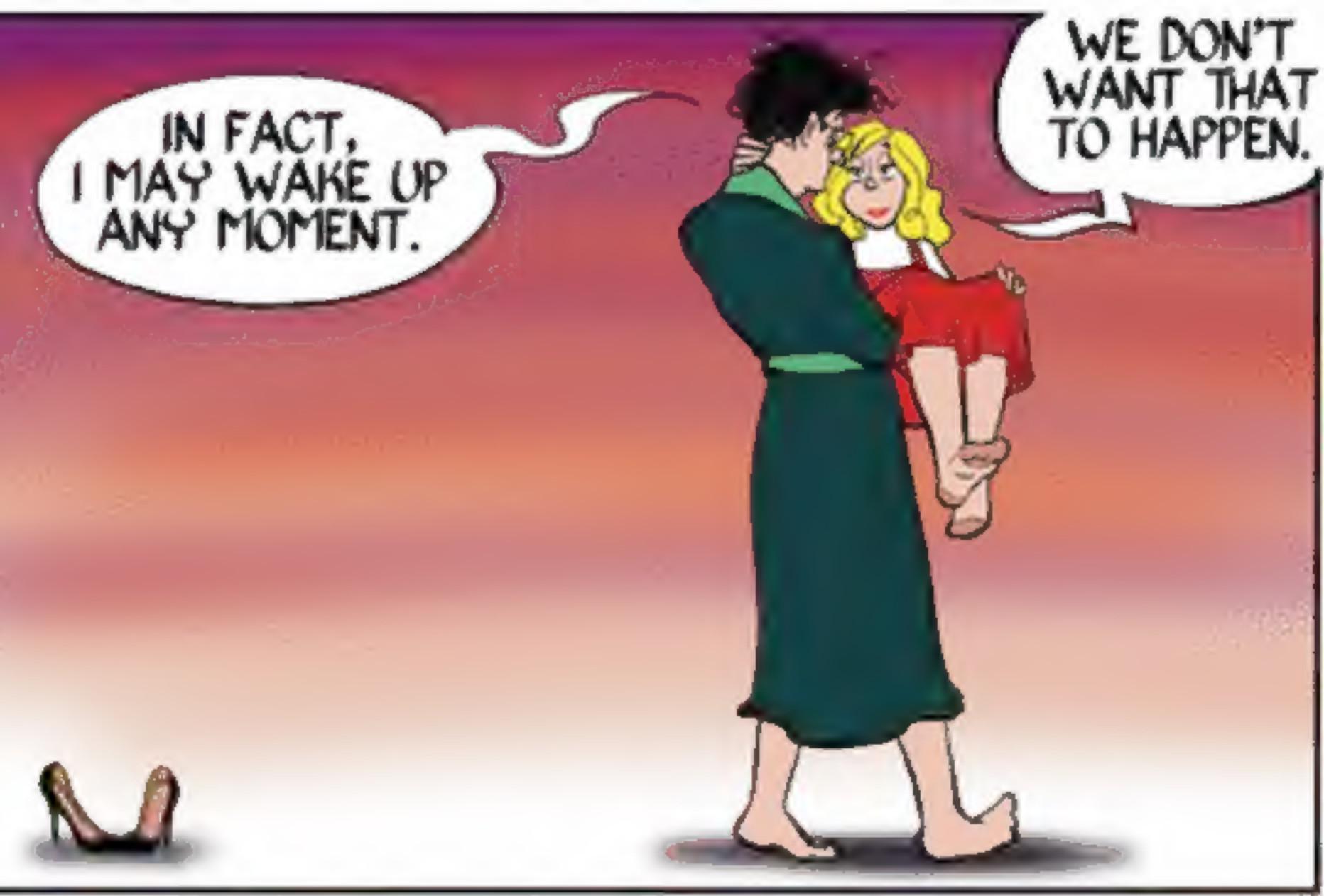




SO...BASICALLY, YOU HAD
A HORRIBLE DREAM IN WHICH
YOU BROKE OUR MUTUAL
VOW OF PRENUPTIAL
ABSTINENCE; A DREAM IN
WHICH YOU WERE A
RUTTING BEAST, AND I
WAS AS SEDUCTIVE AS A
SNORING BREAD PUDDING
WITH RAMPANT HALITOSIS.



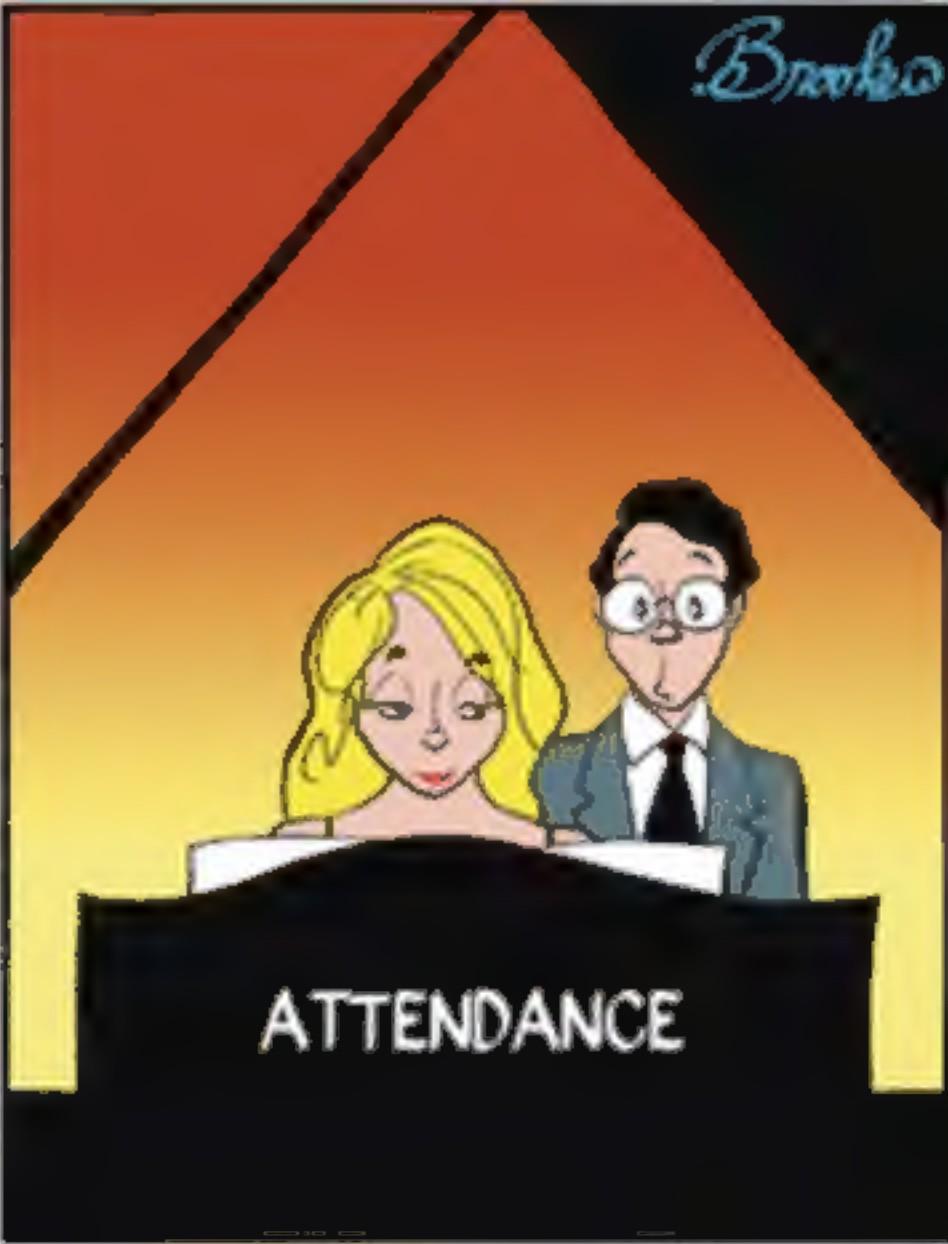
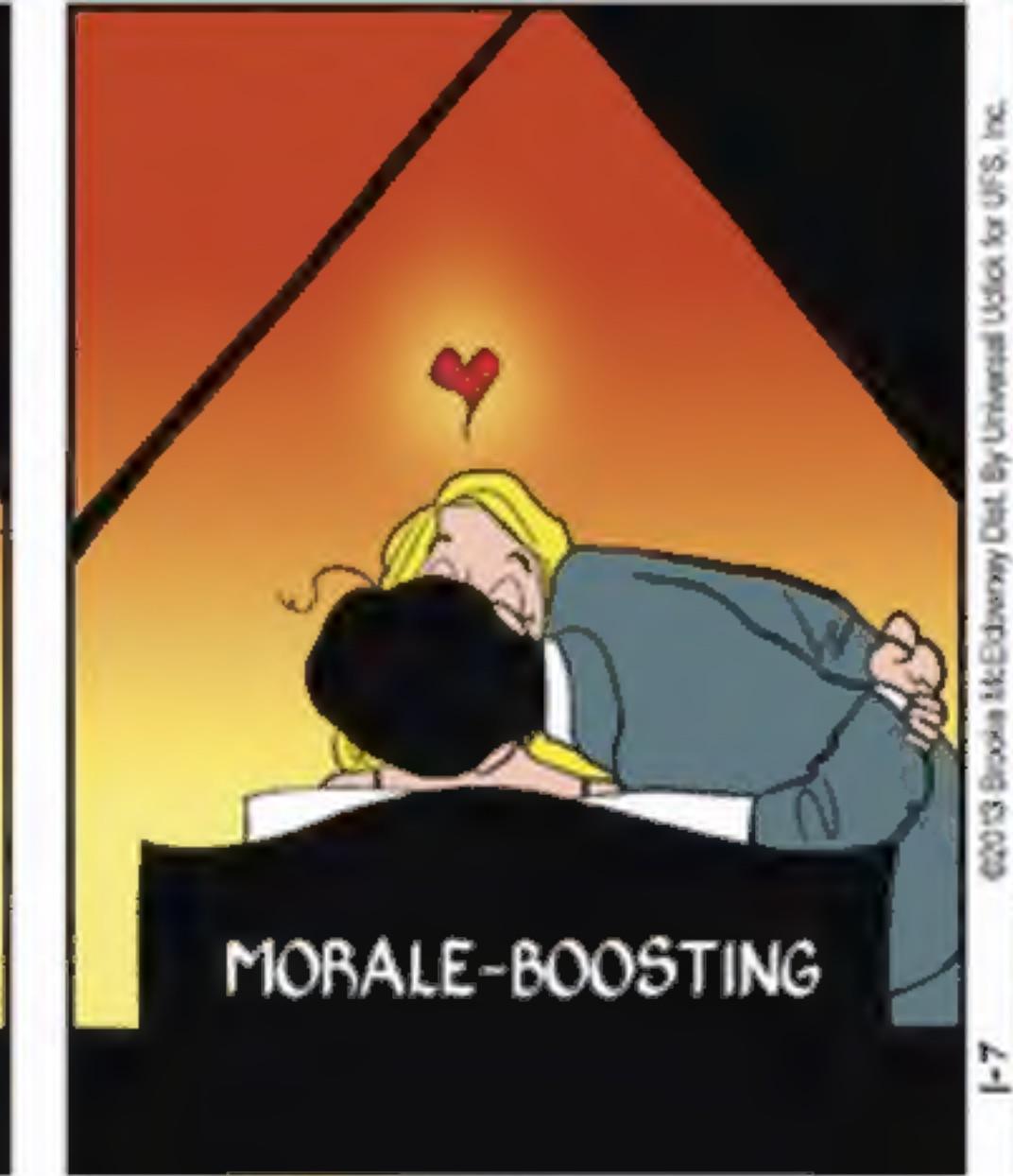
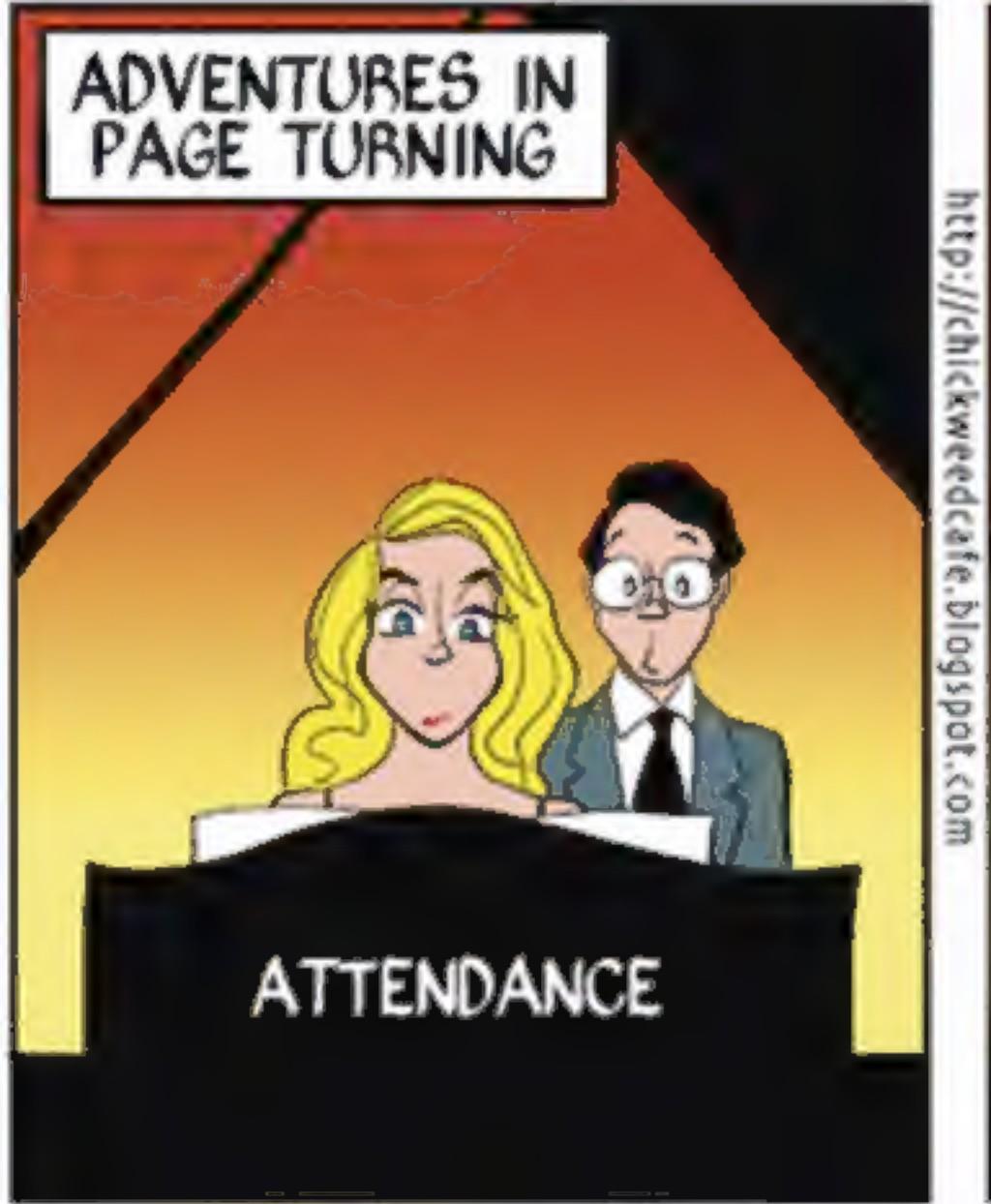
BUT THE PART I LIKED BEST
WAS WHERE YOU TIPTOED
OUT OF THE ROOM AND
TRIED TO CONVINCE ME IT
WAS REALLY ONLY A DREAM
AND I THEREFORE NEVER
BROKE MY WORD TO YOU.

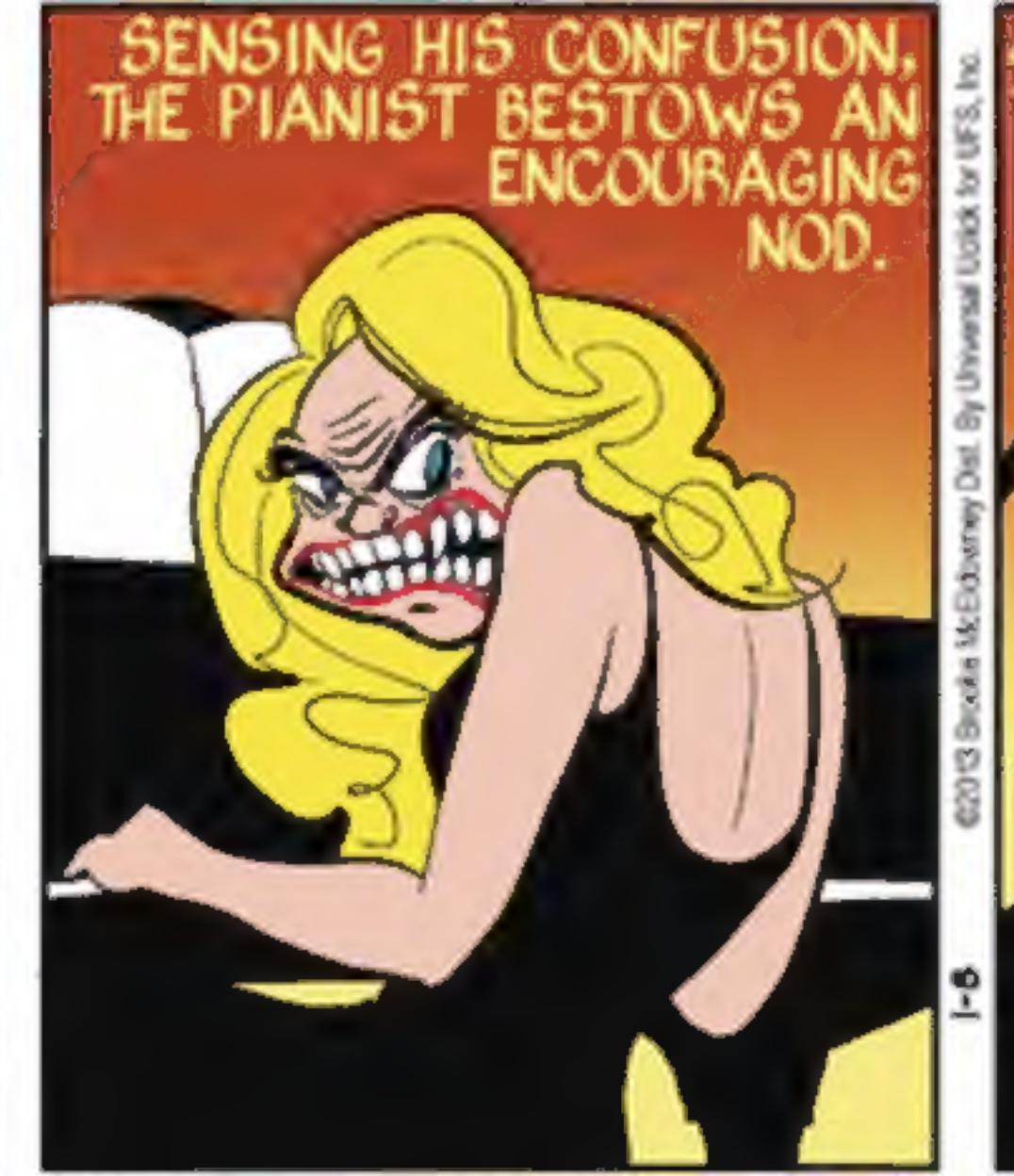


9

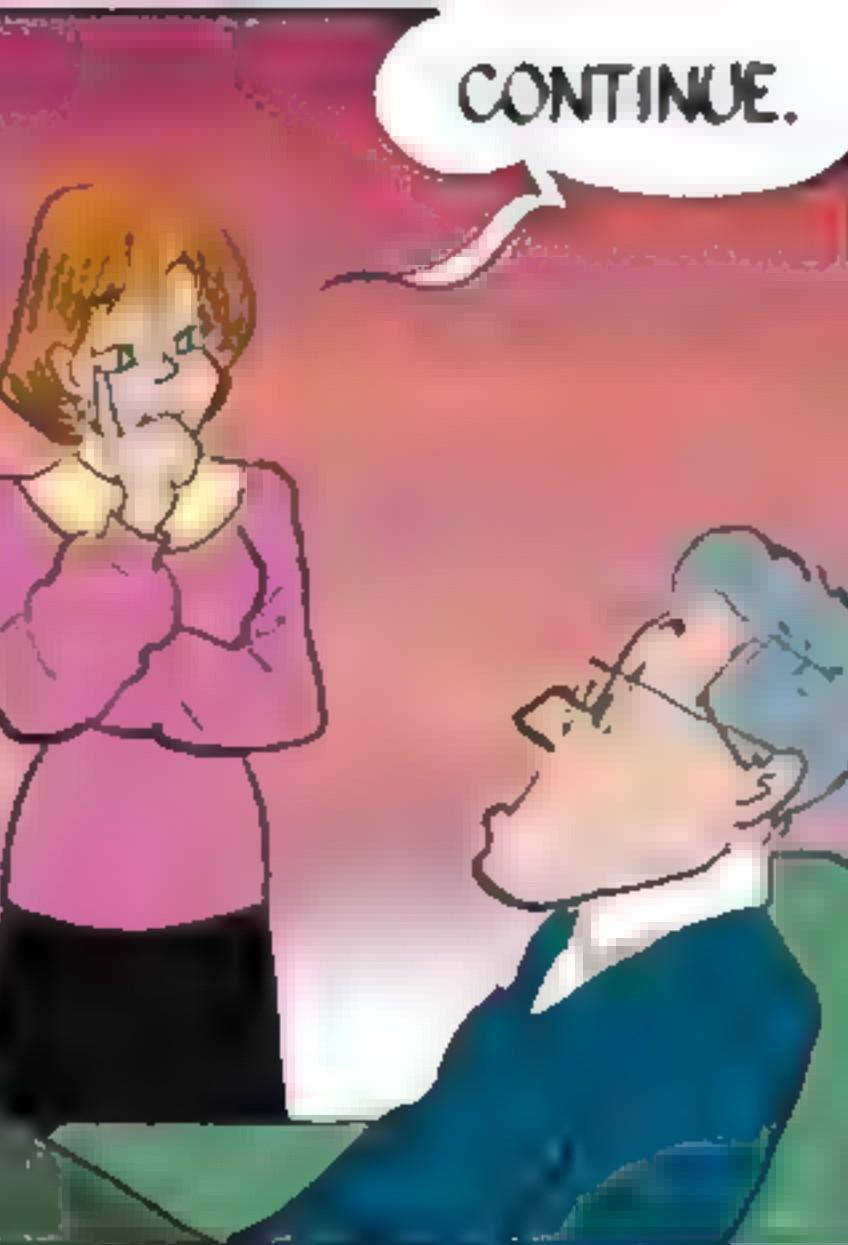
CHICKWEED LANE

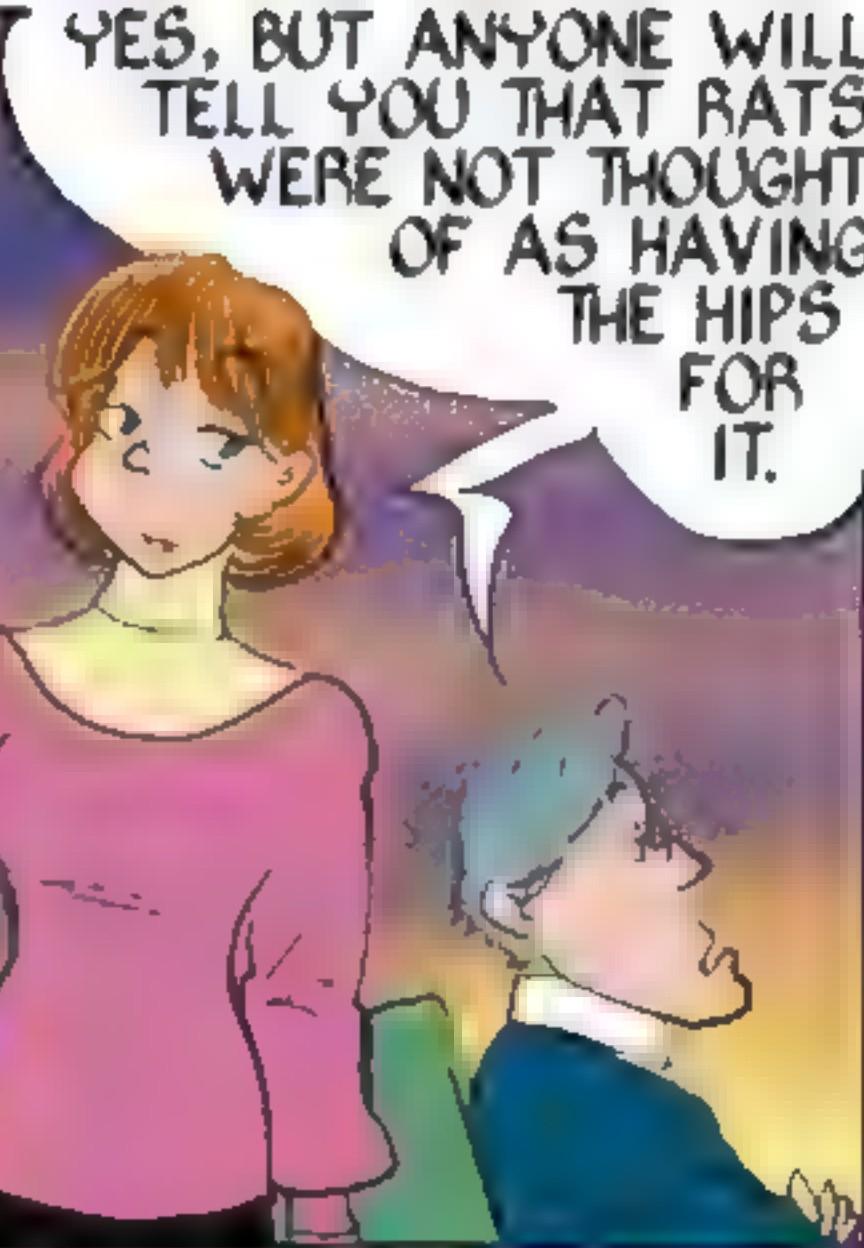
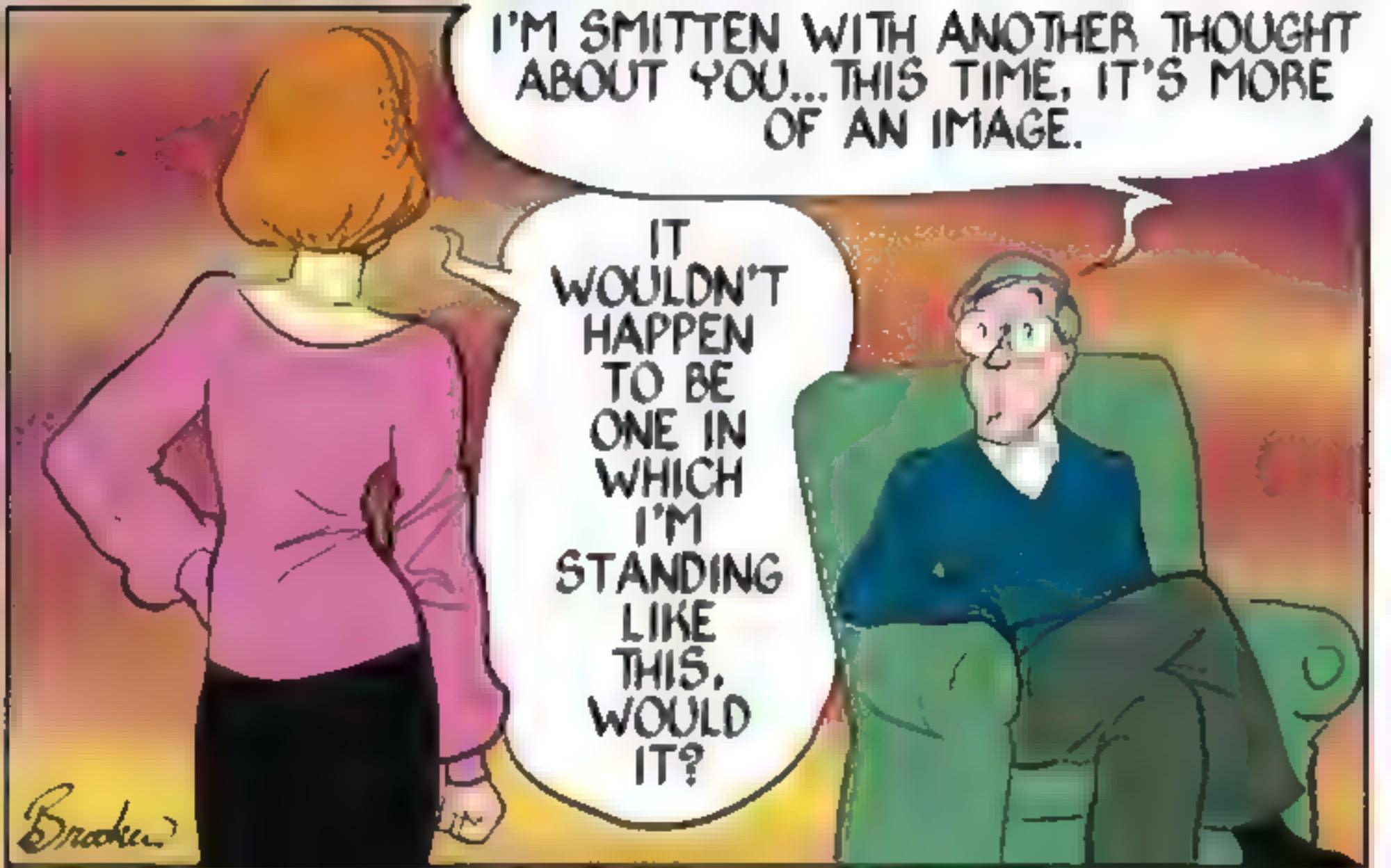


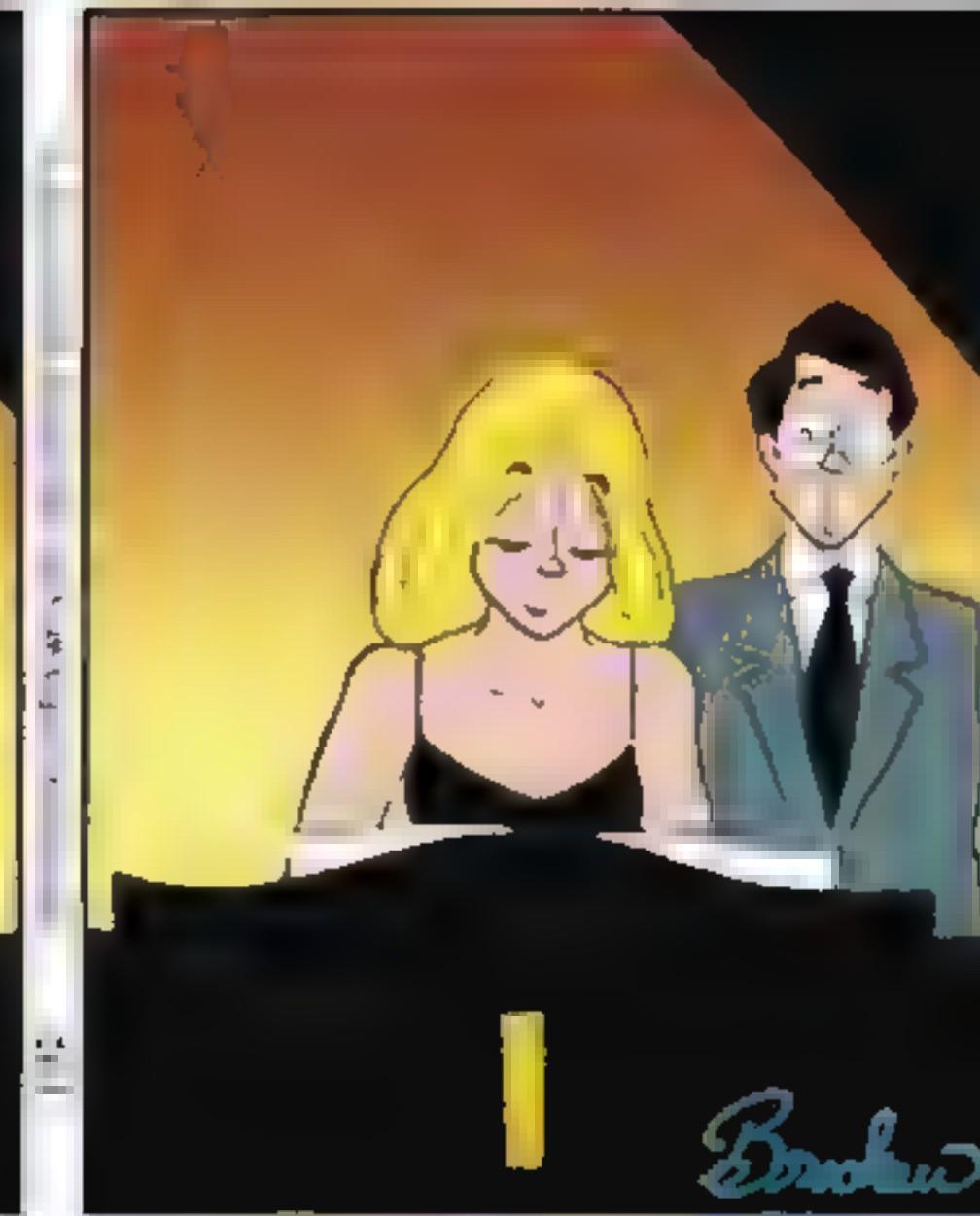
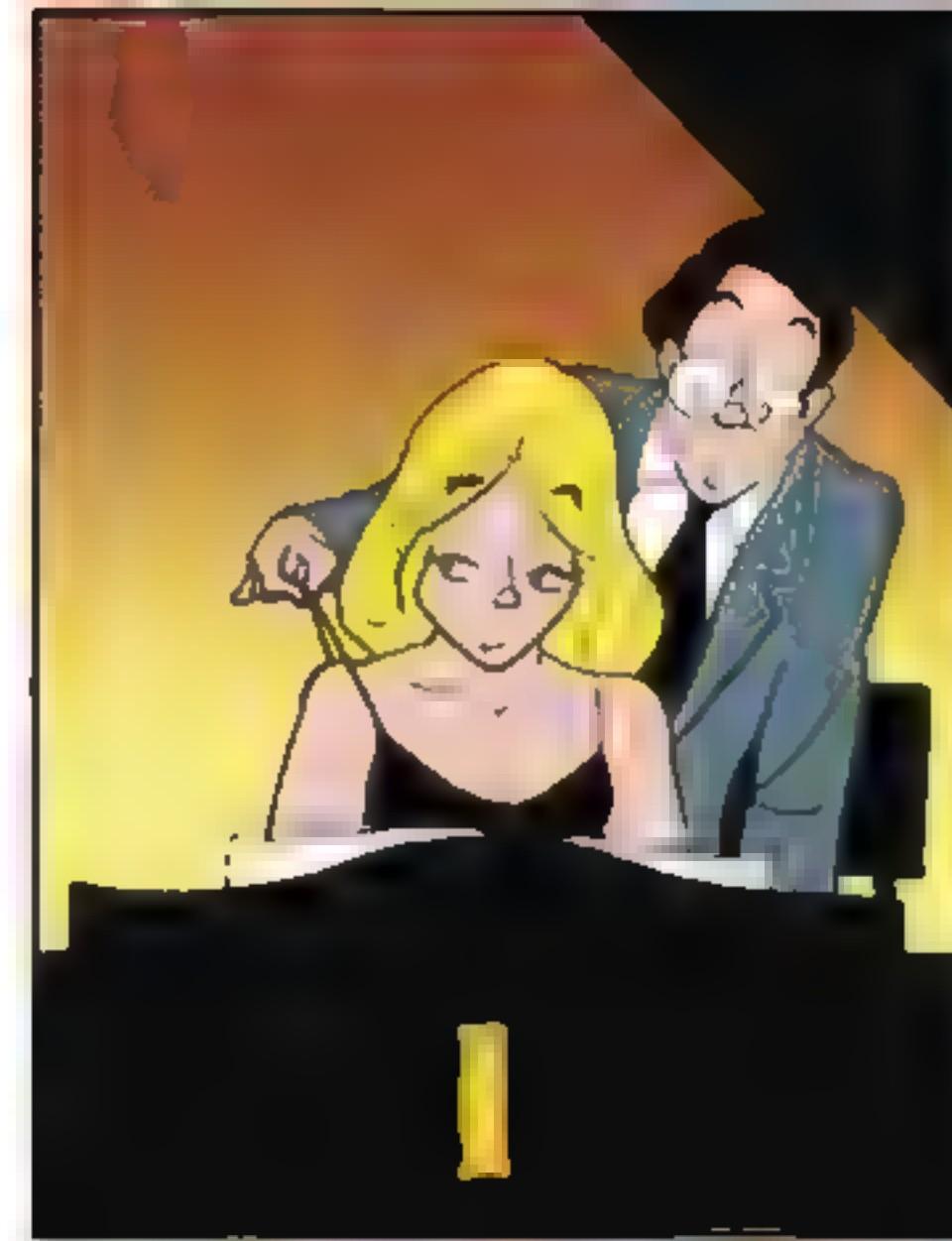
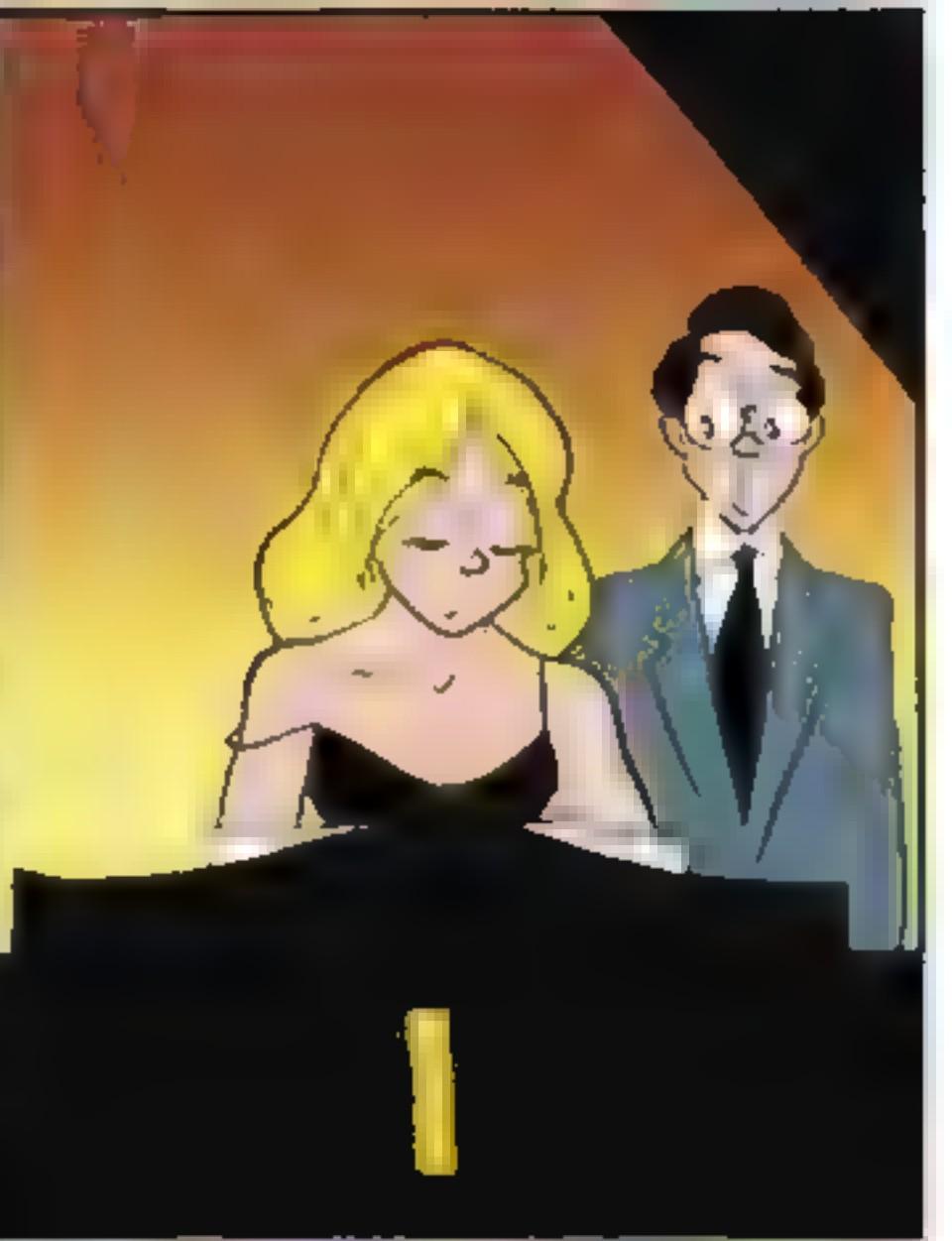




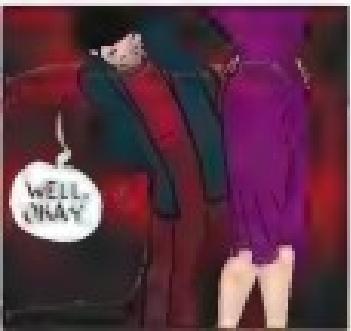




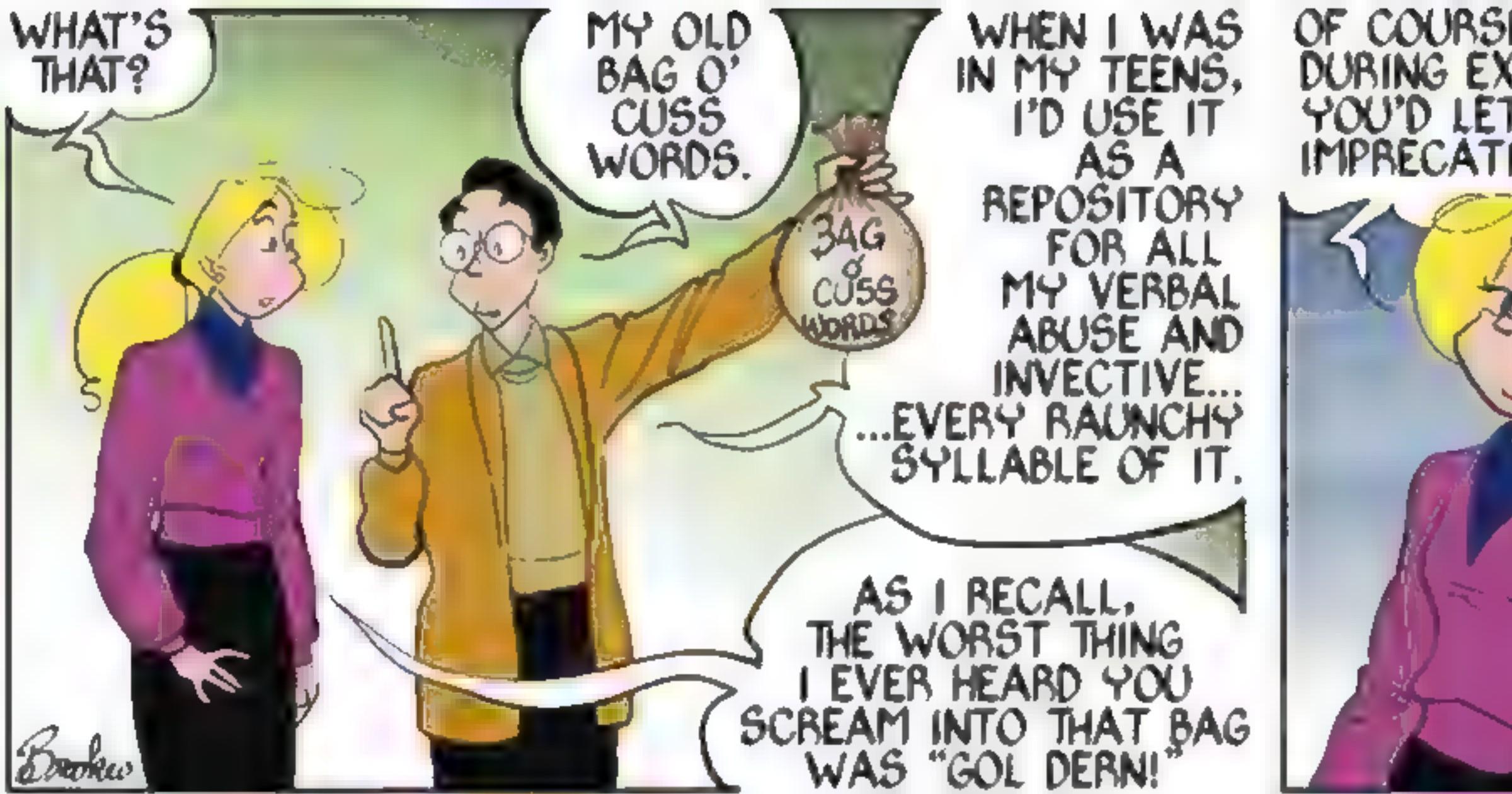


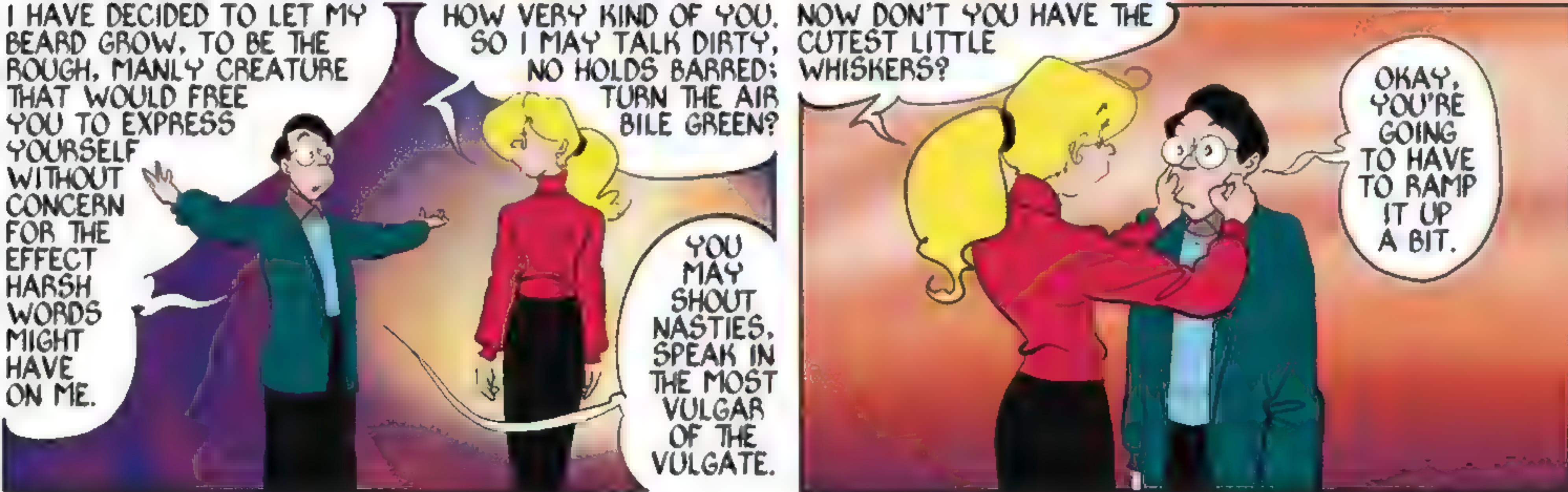


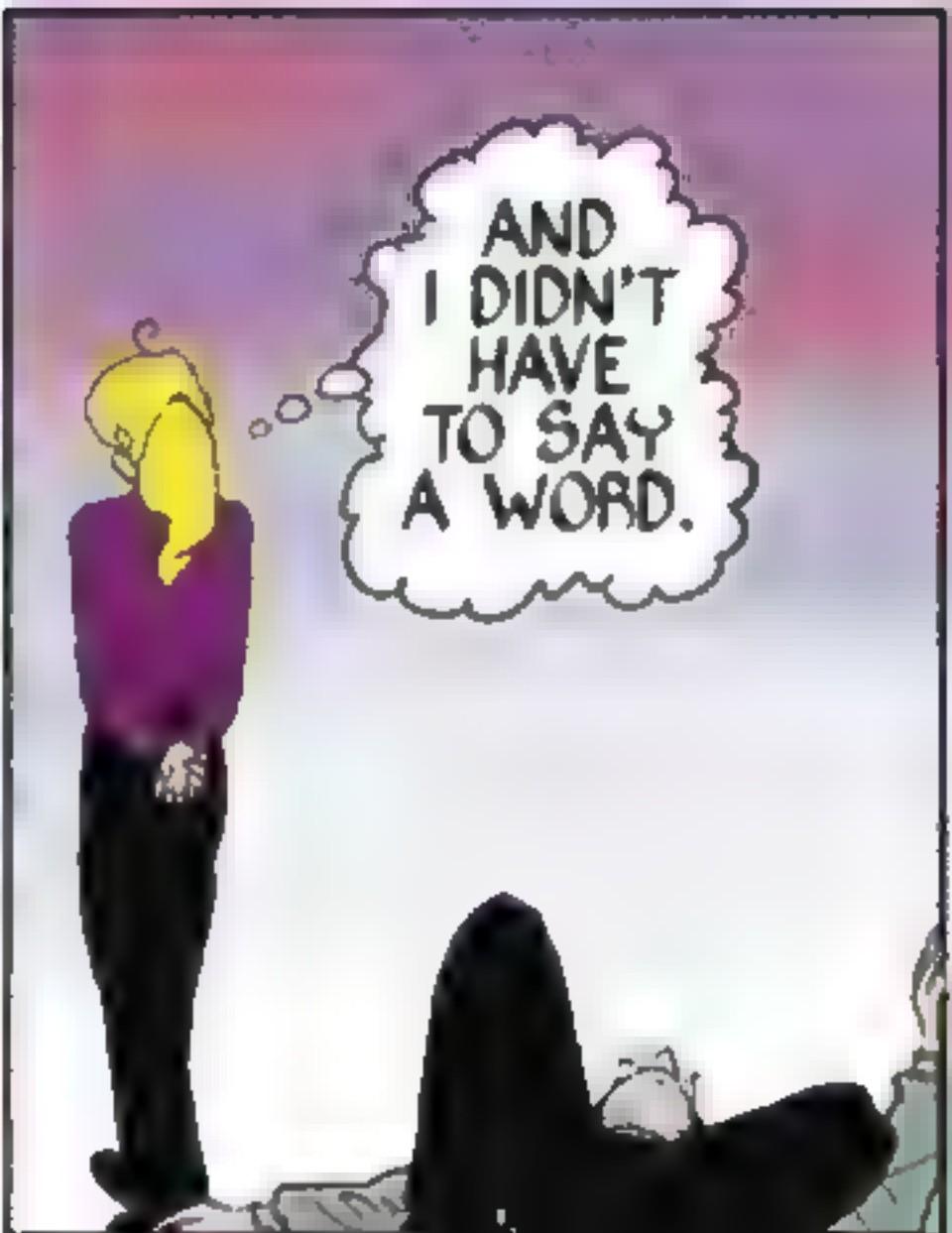
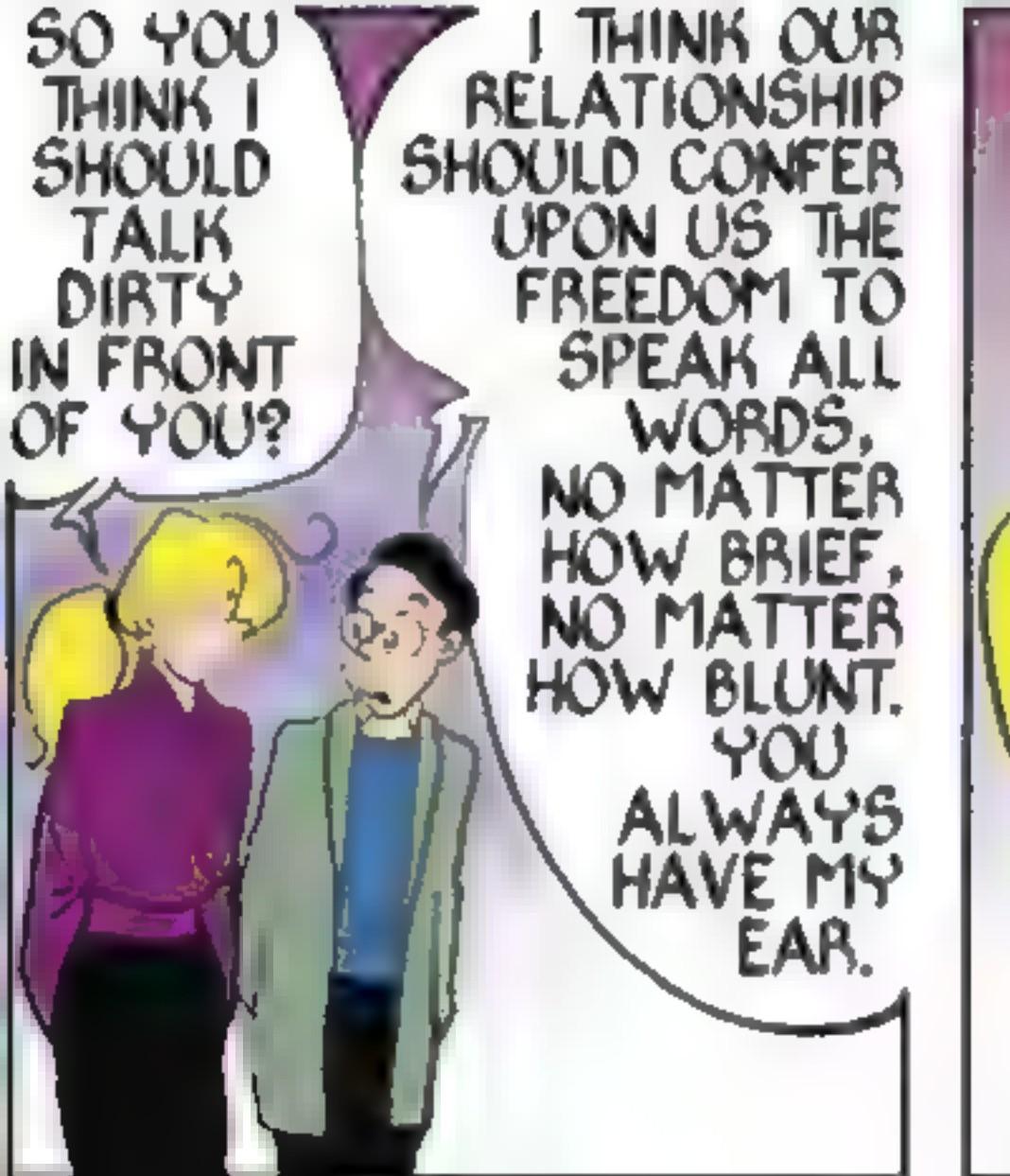
**9
CHICKWEED
LANE**

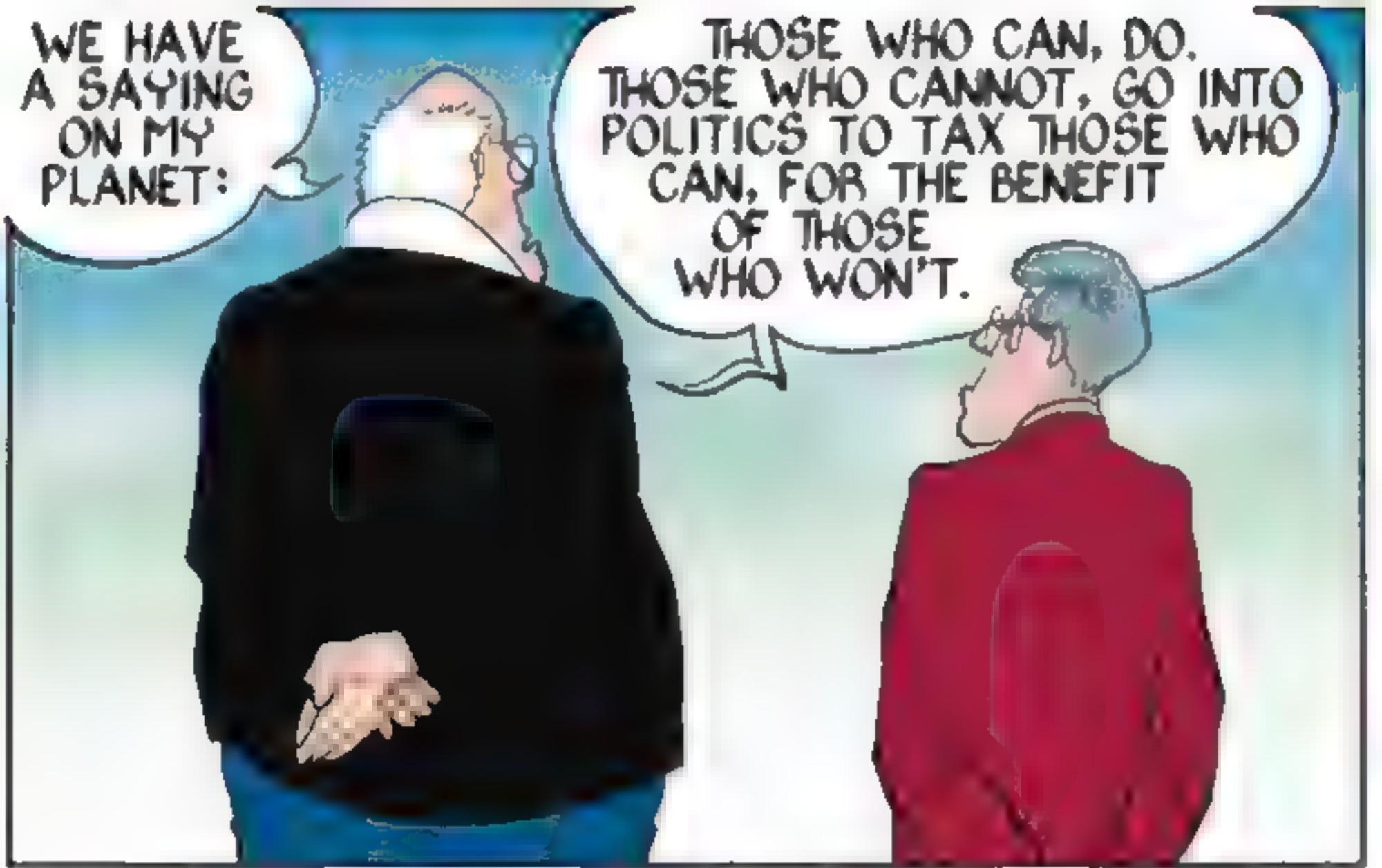


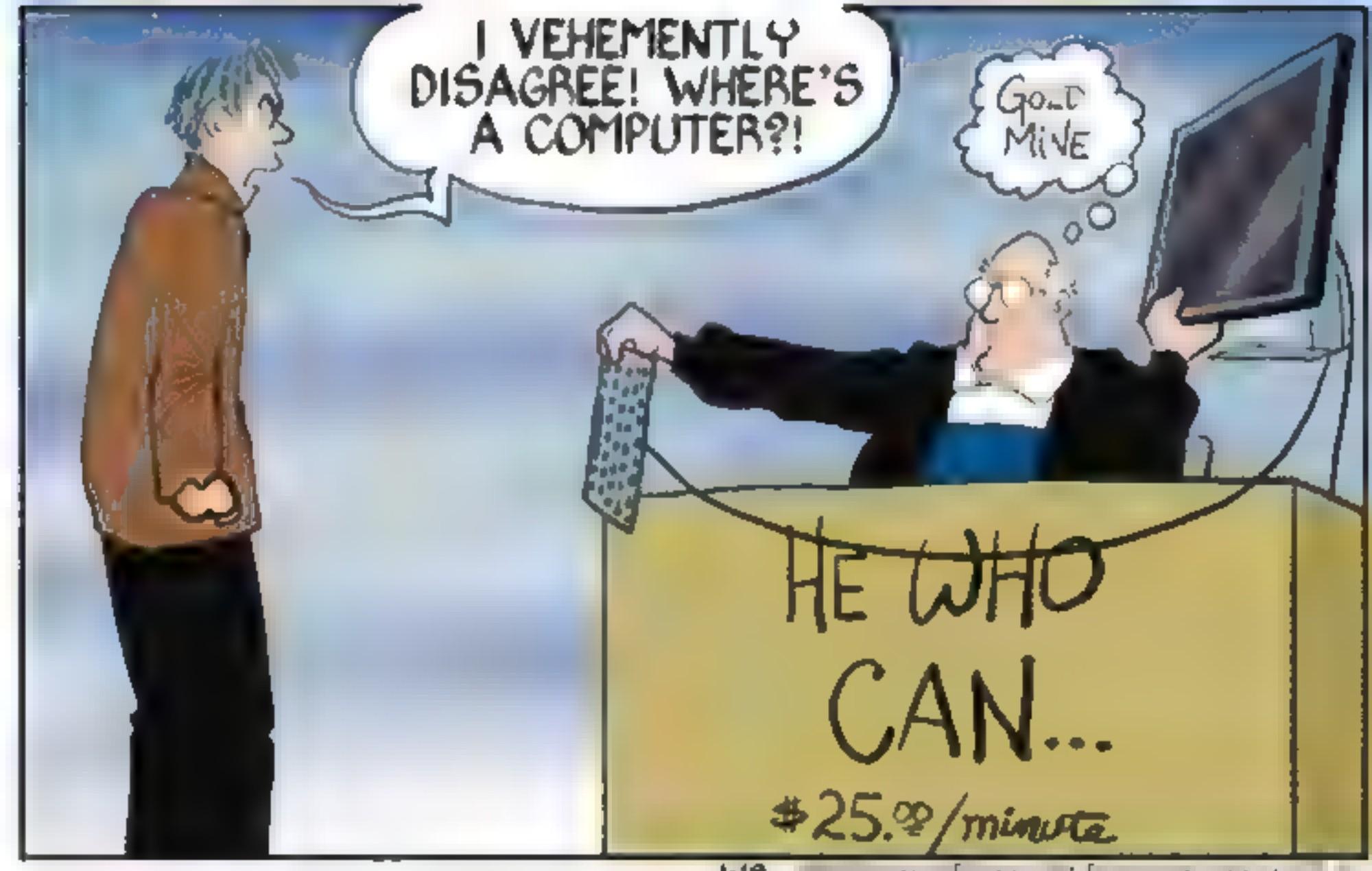
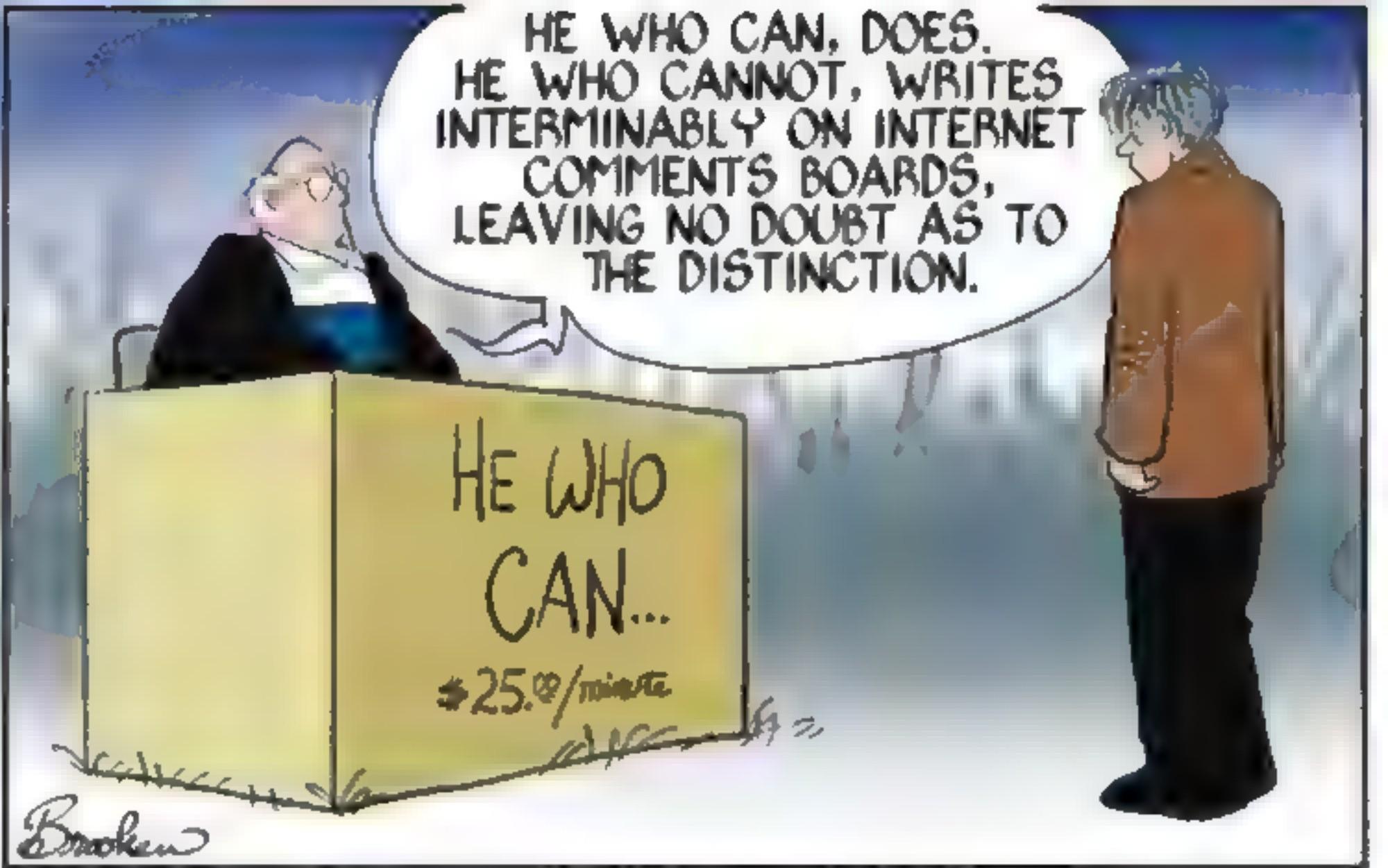


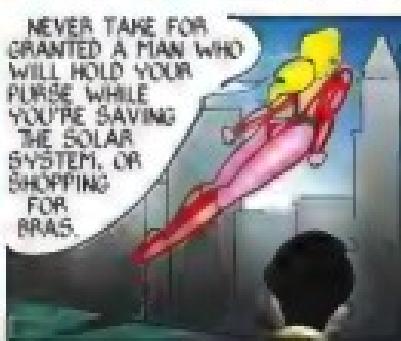
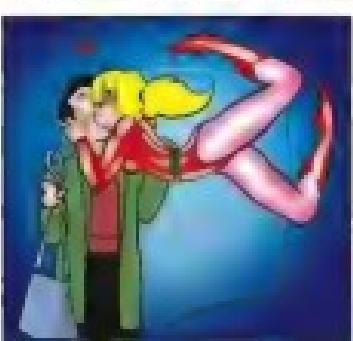
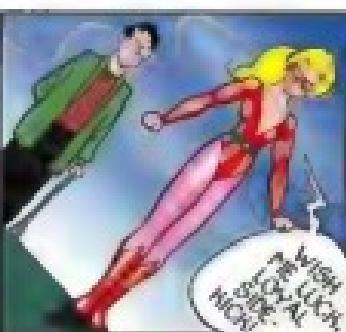


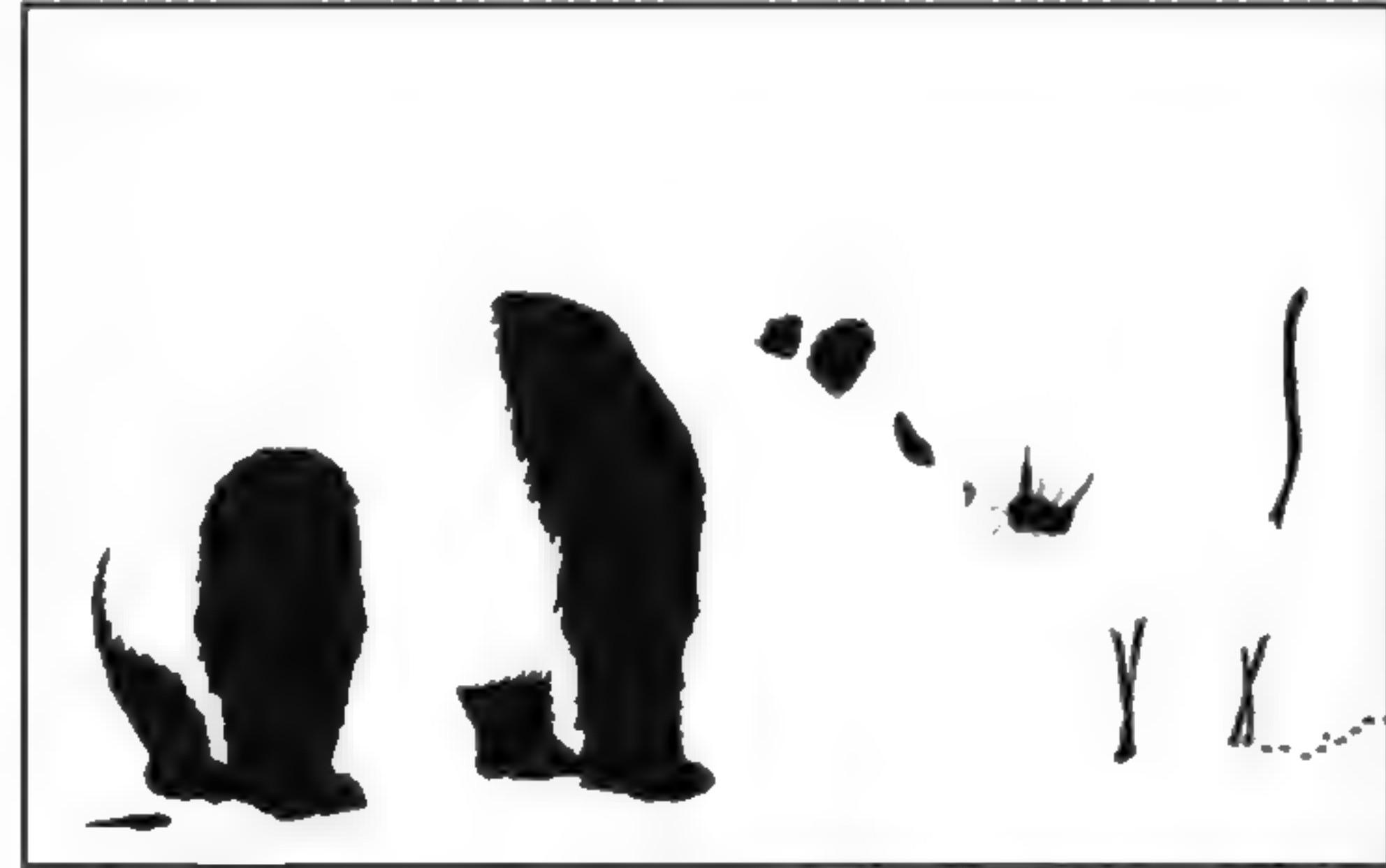
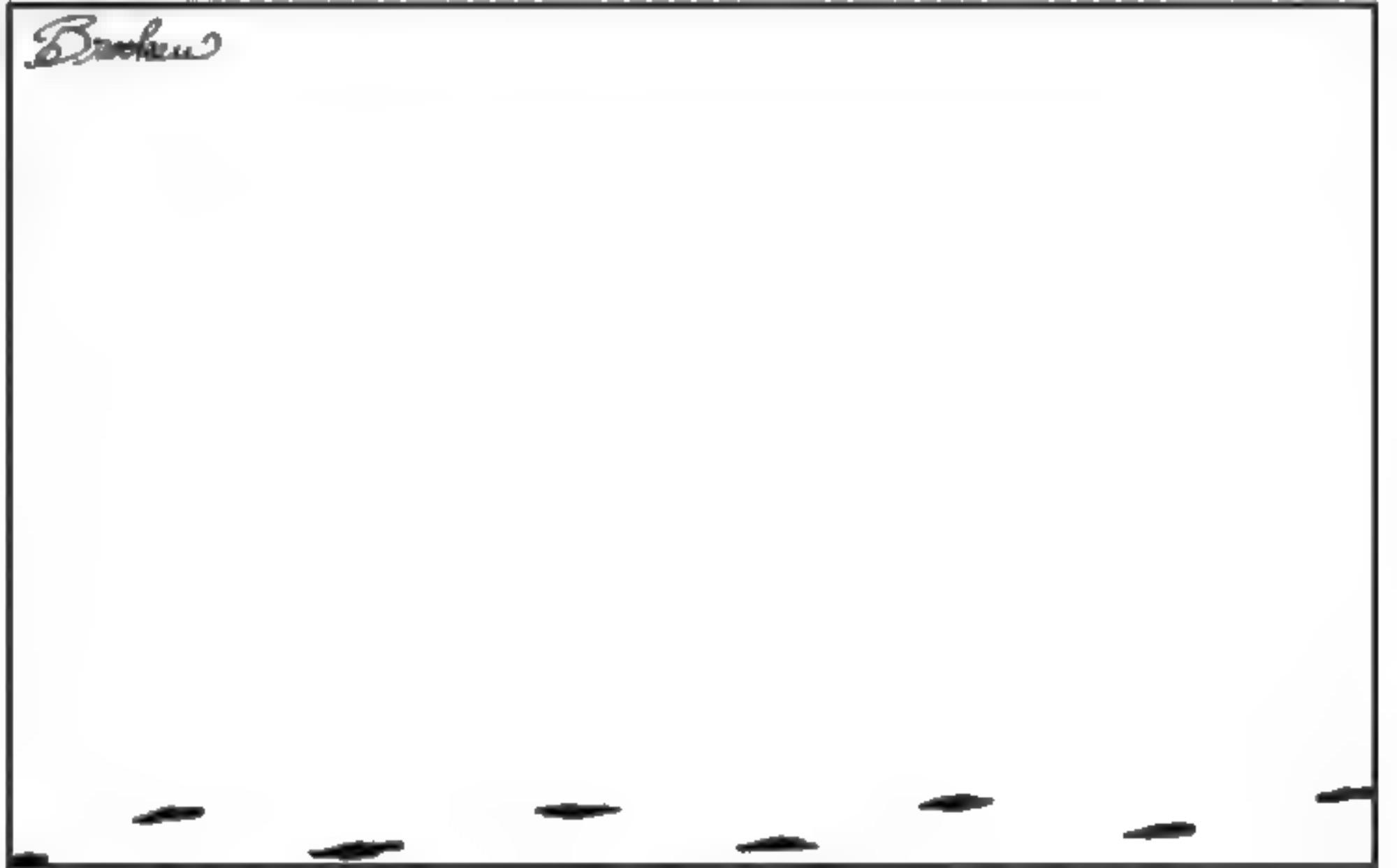




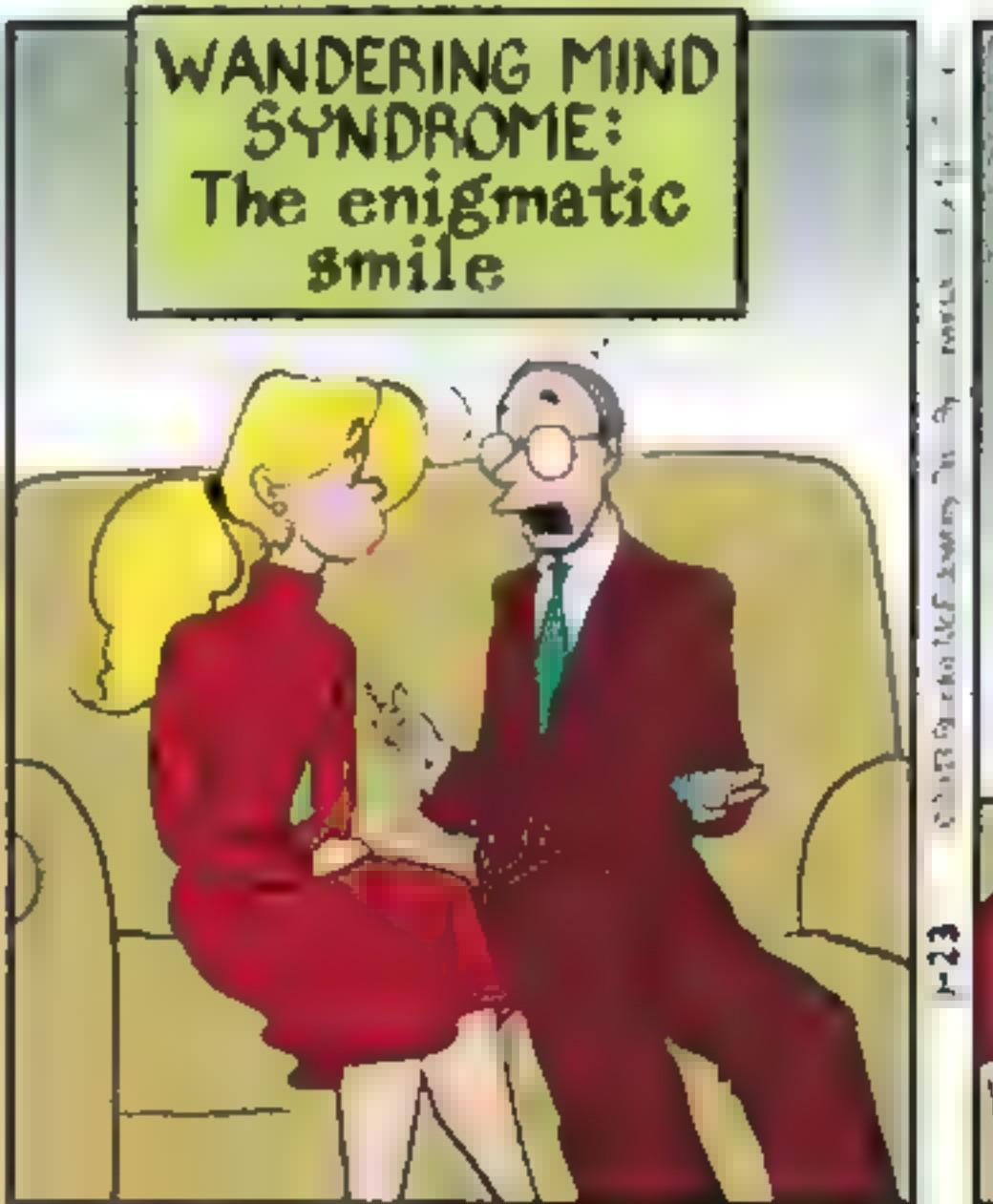


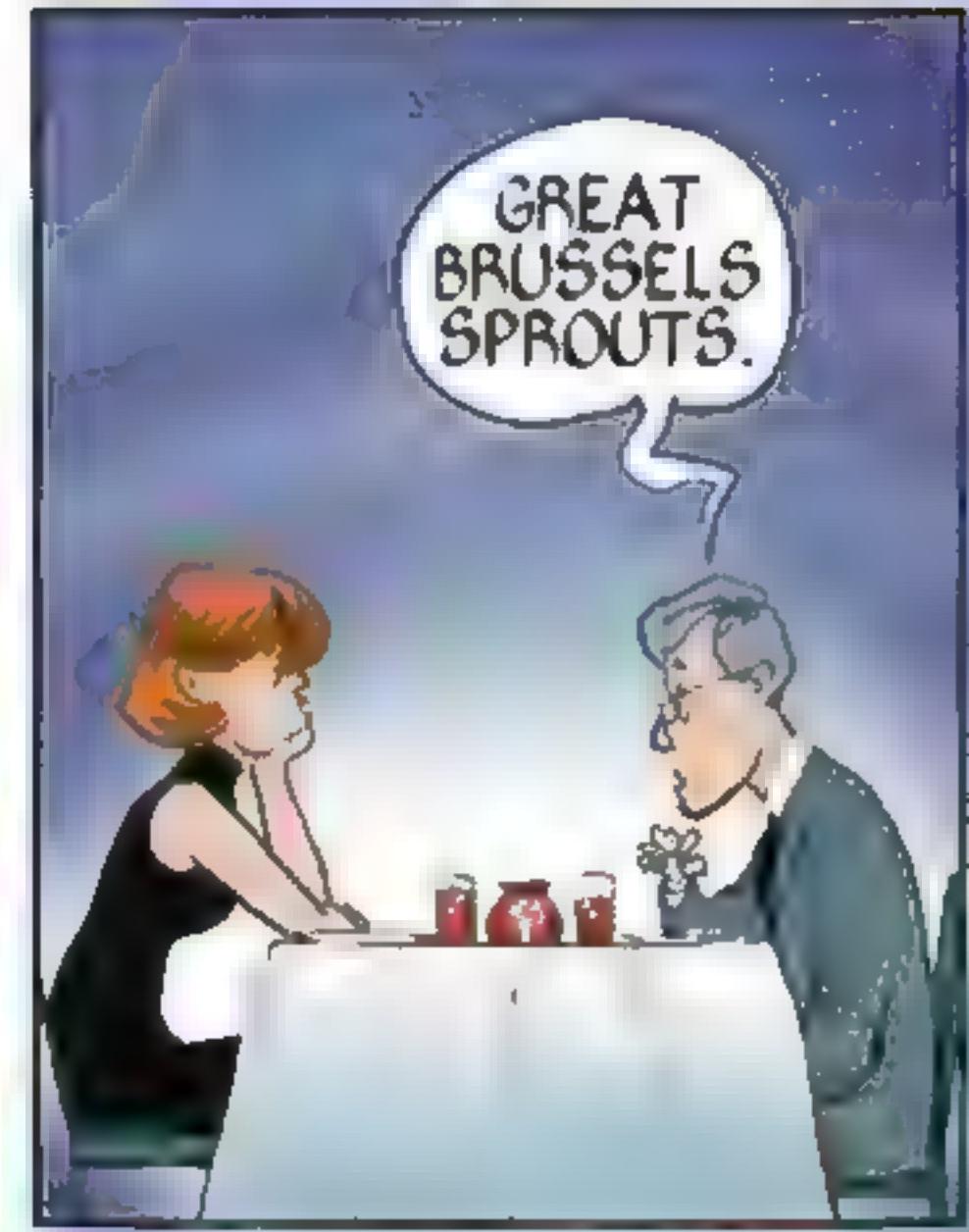
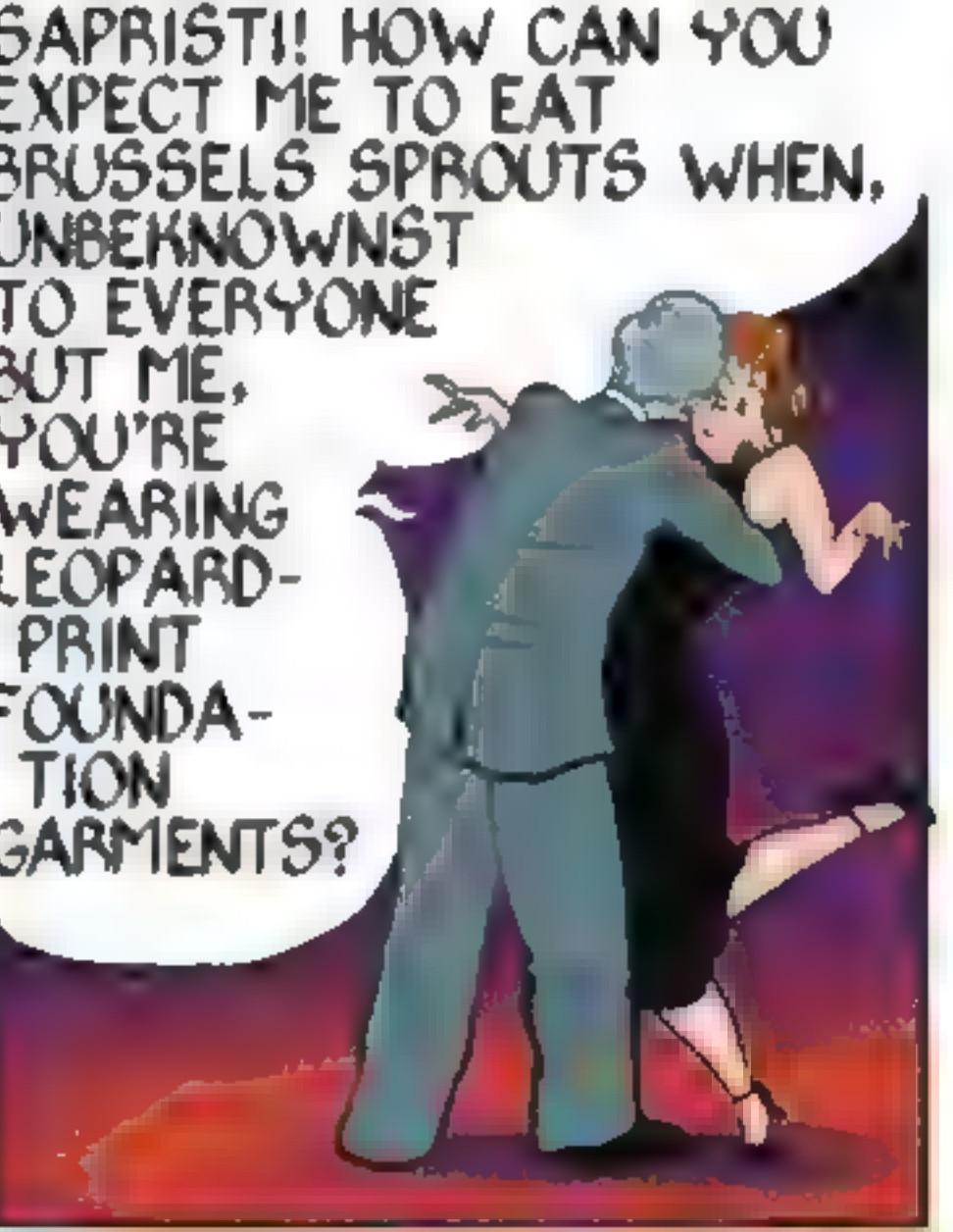
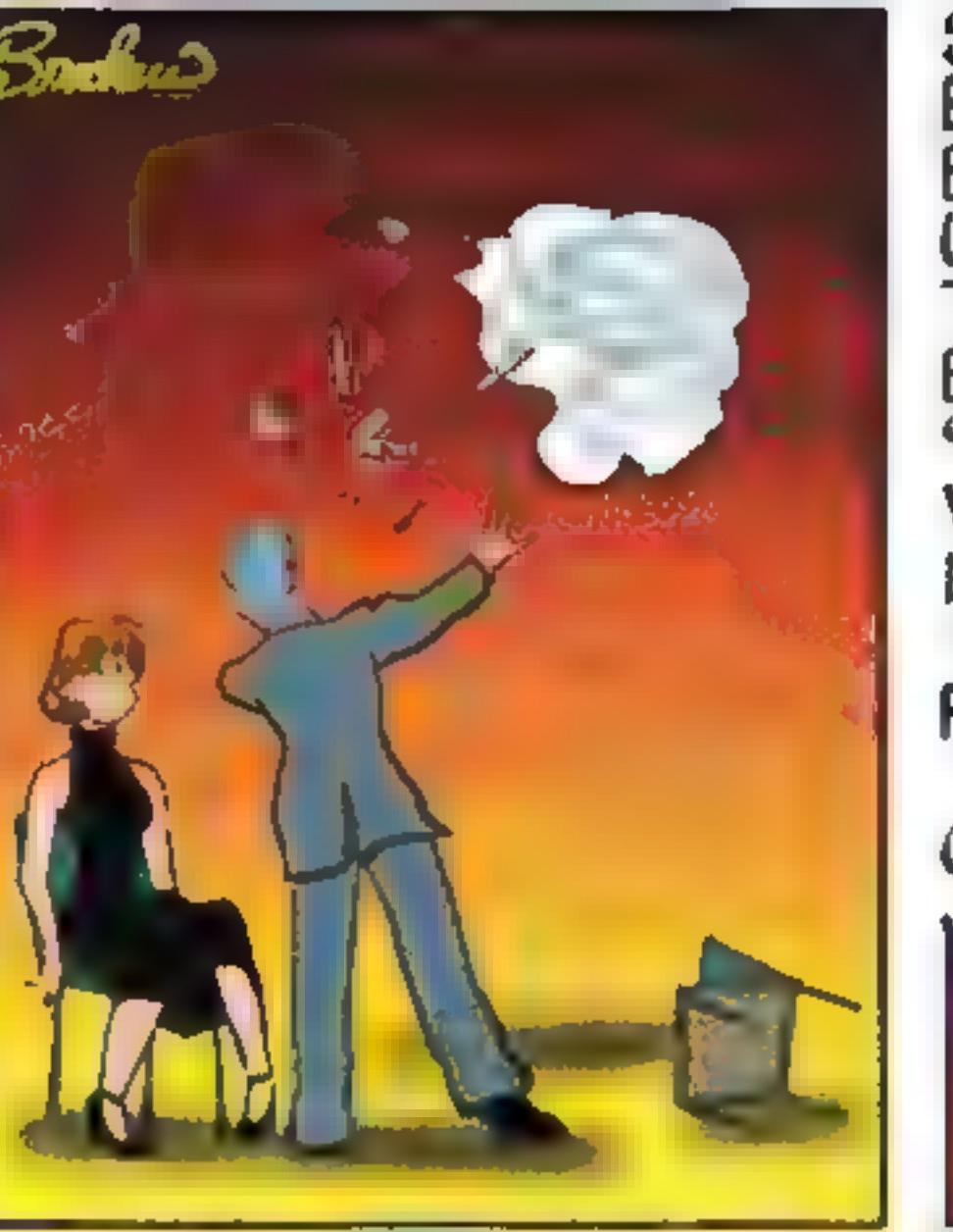
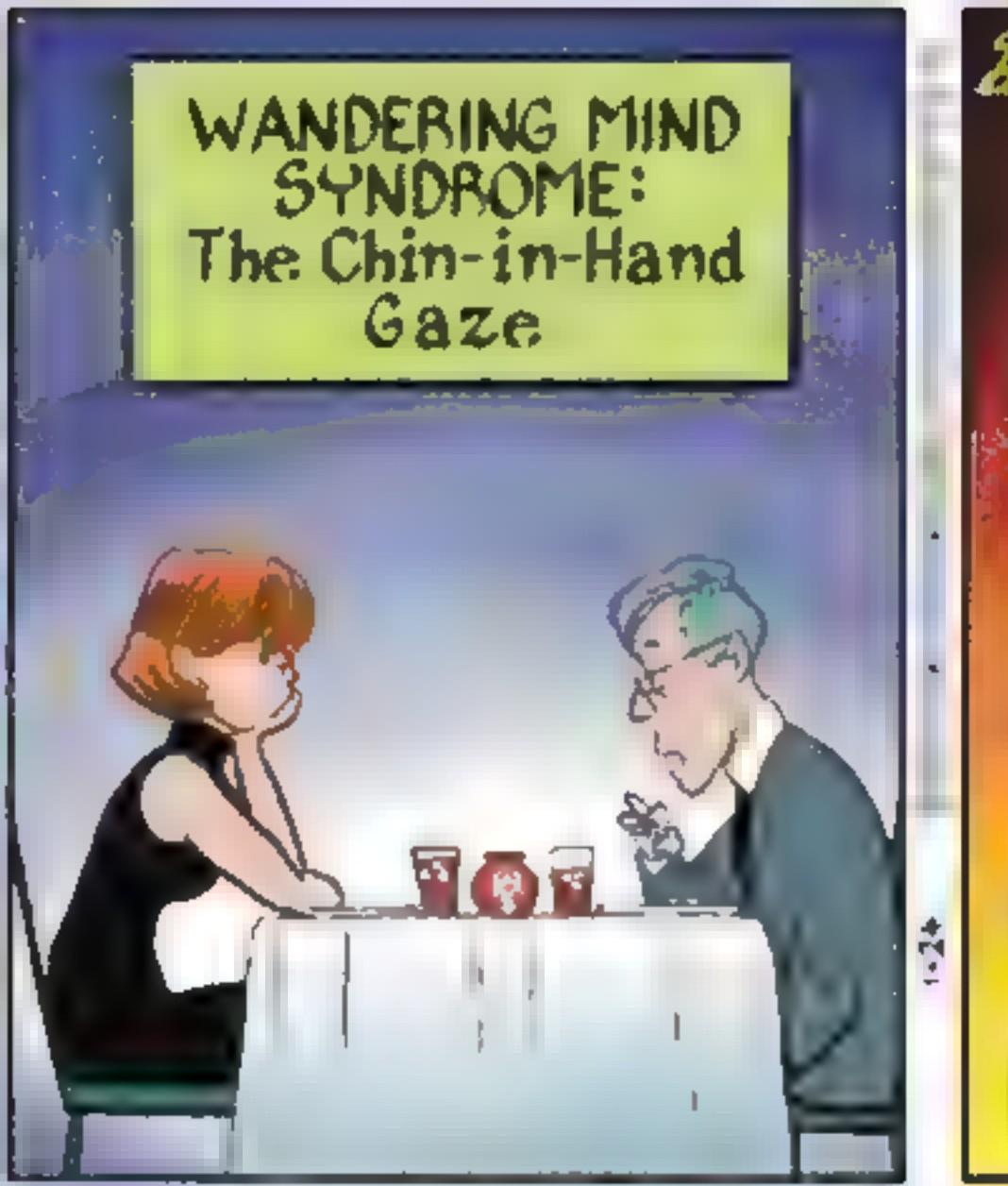


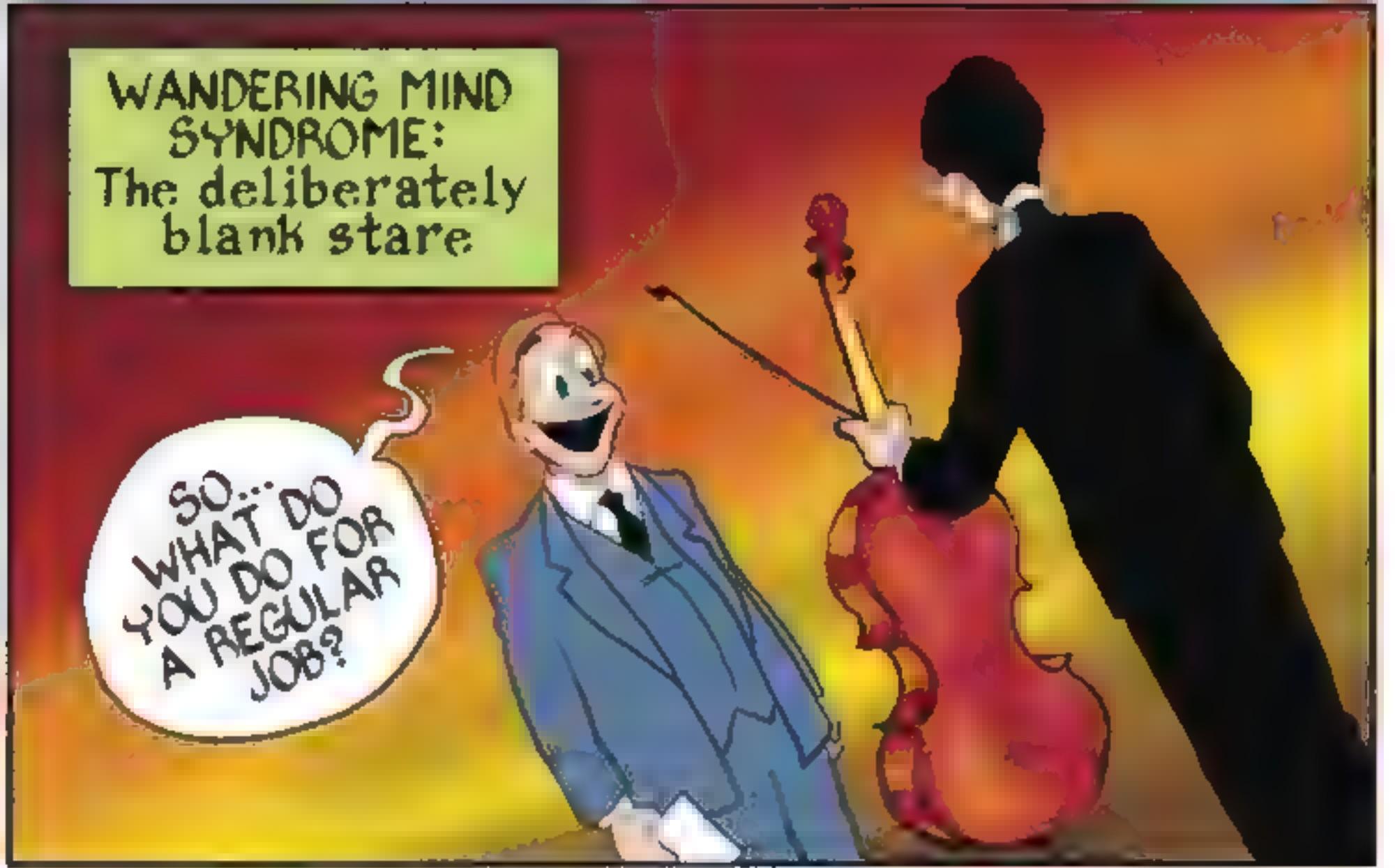


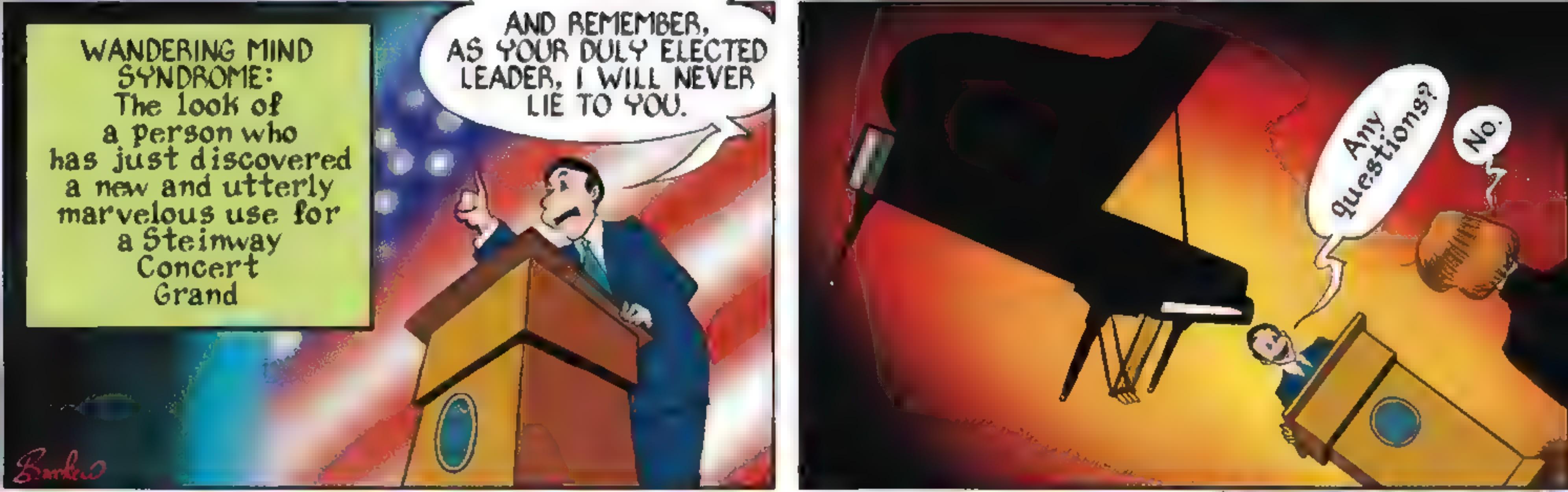


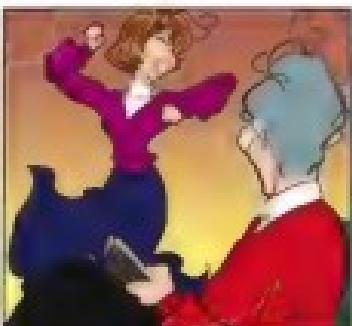
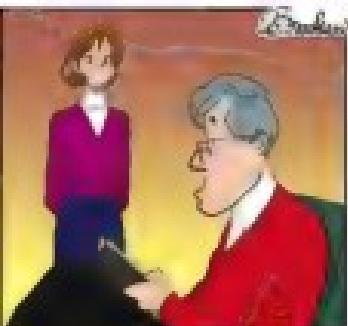
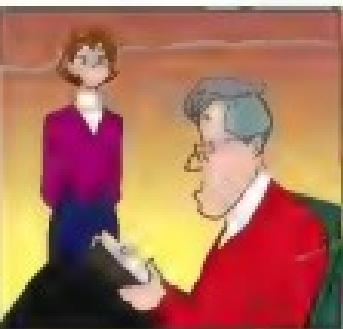






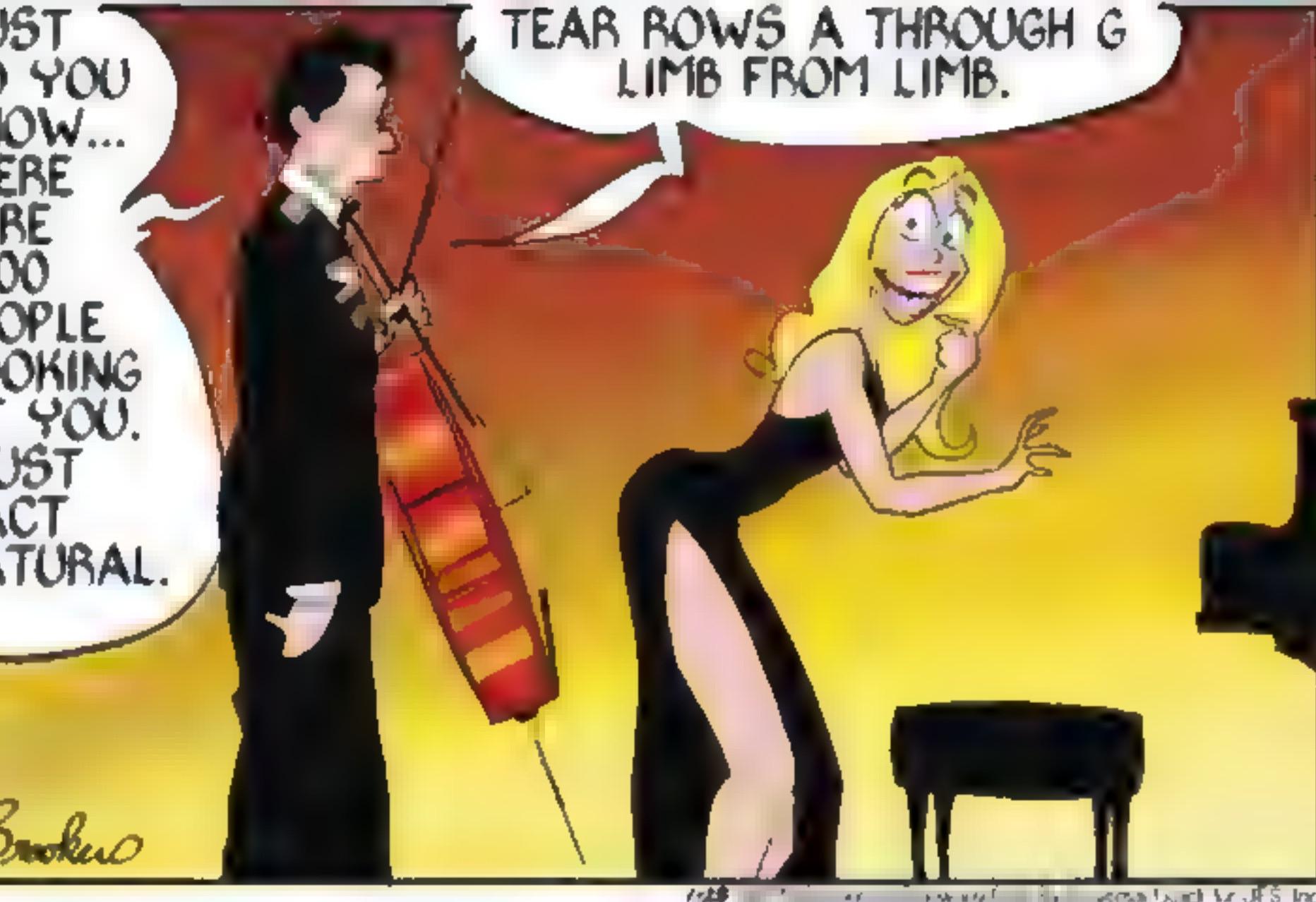




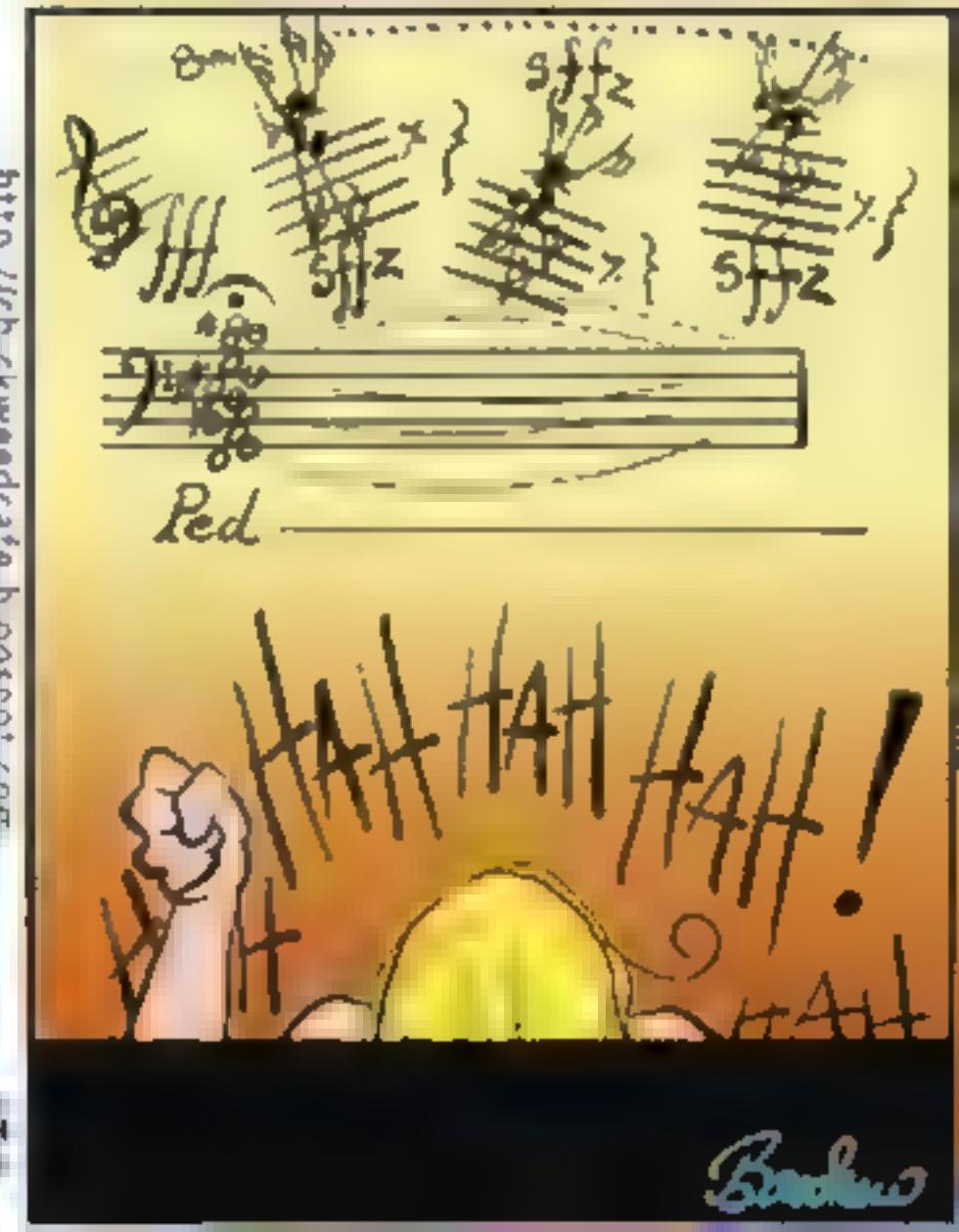
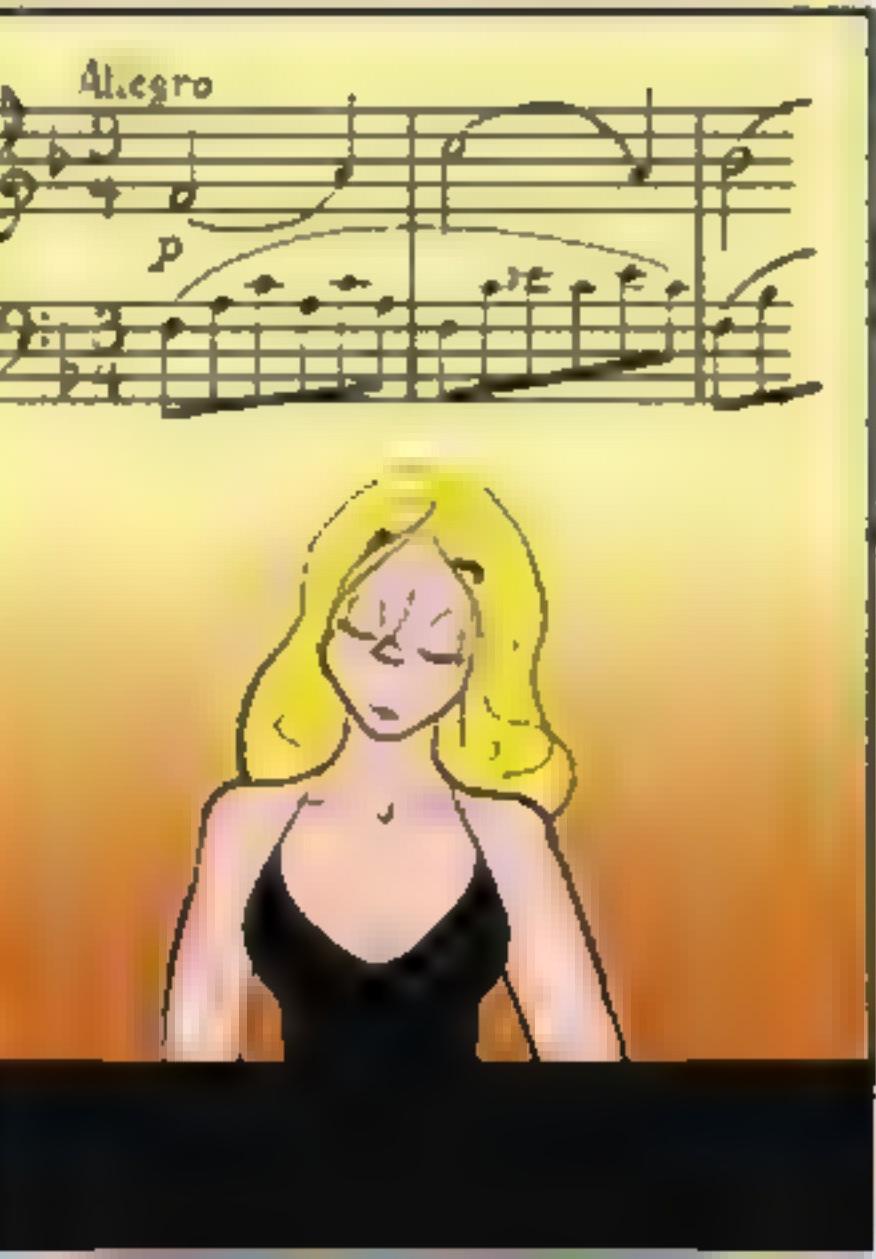


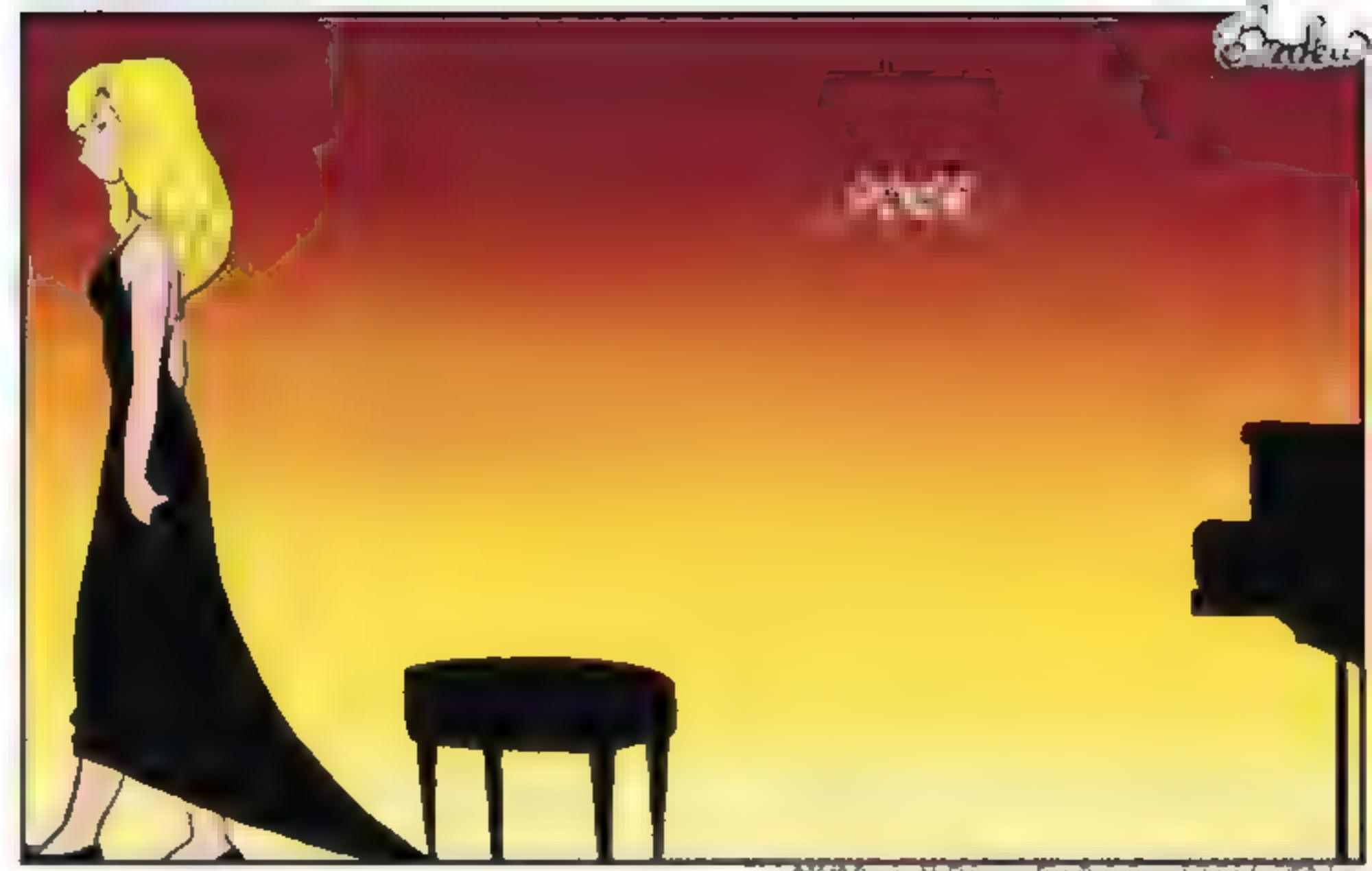
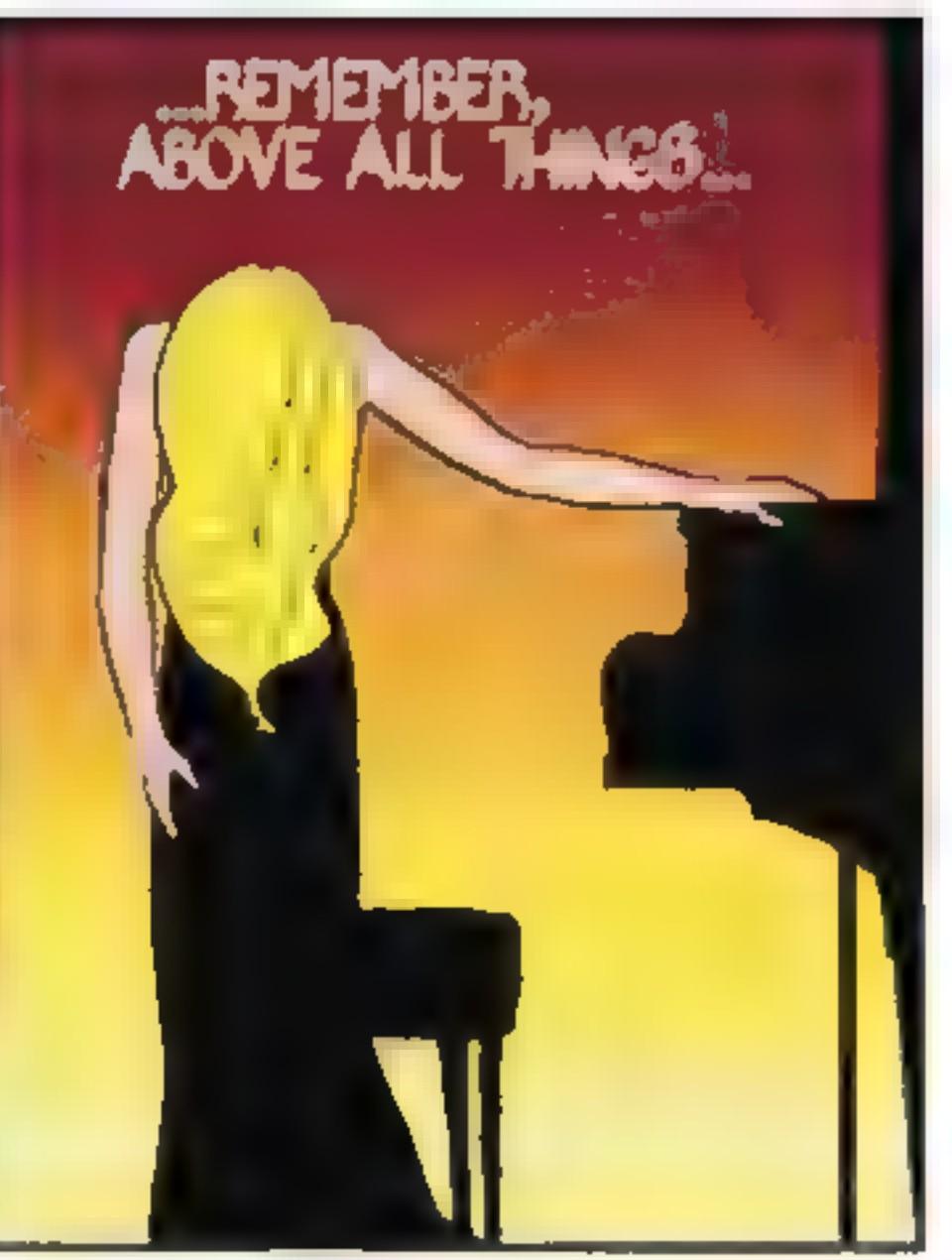
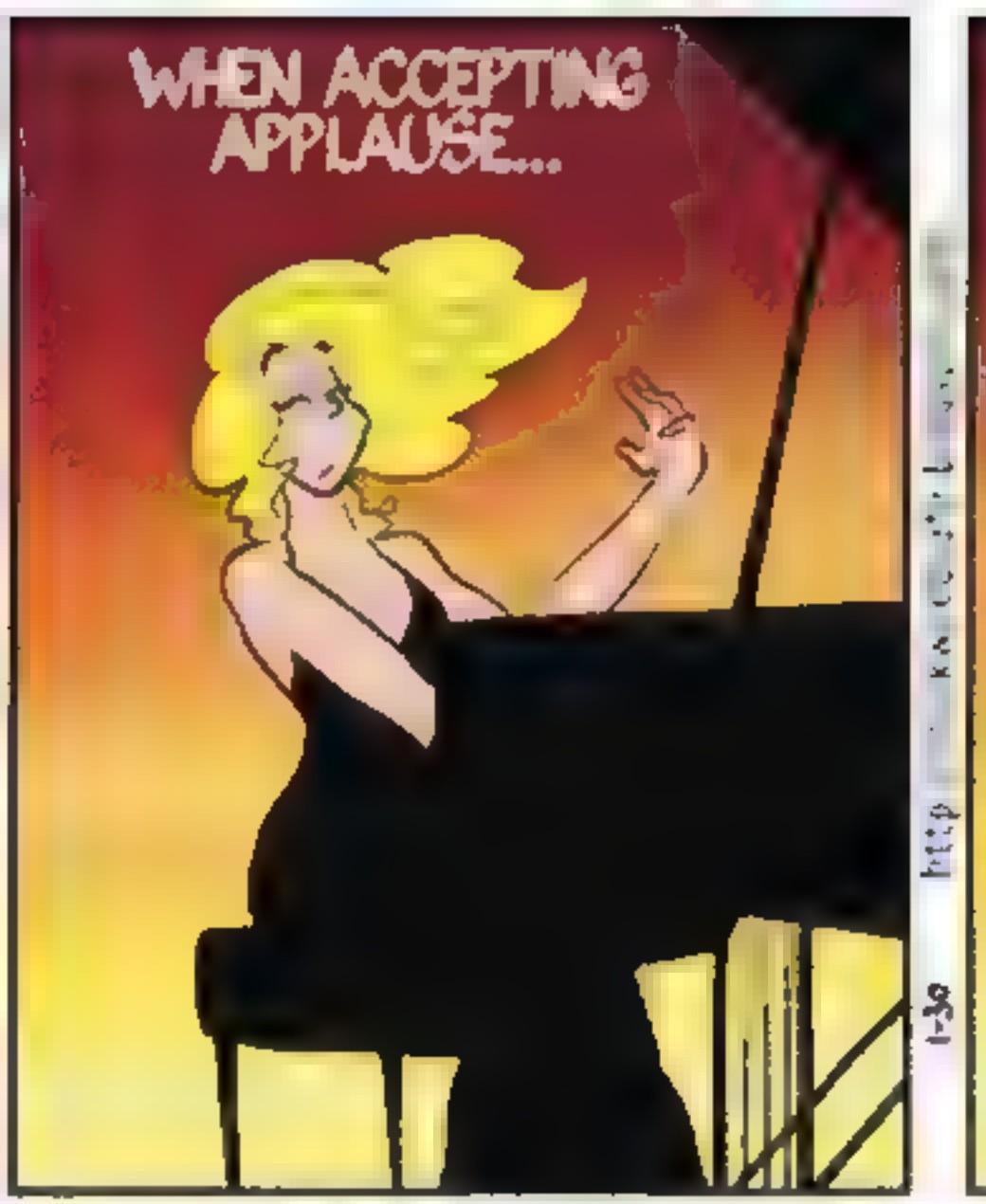


BACKSTAGE
ADVICE:
WHEN
WAITING
TO GO ON,
IT IS A GOOD
IDEA NOT
TO GET TOO
CAUGHT UP
IN YOUR
IMITATION OF
A RAMPAGING
TYRANNOSAUR
WEARING
A HALTER
EVENING GOWN.

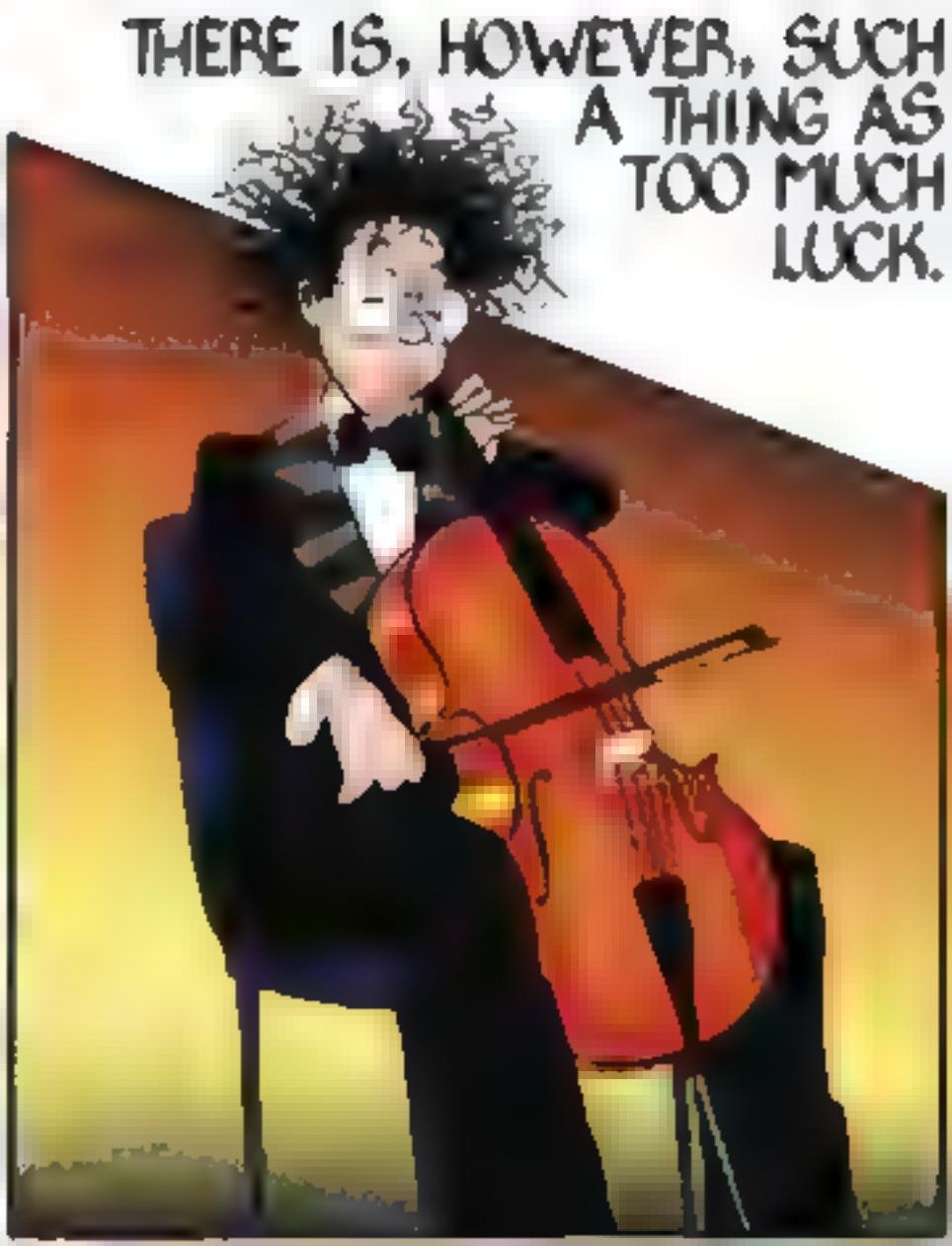
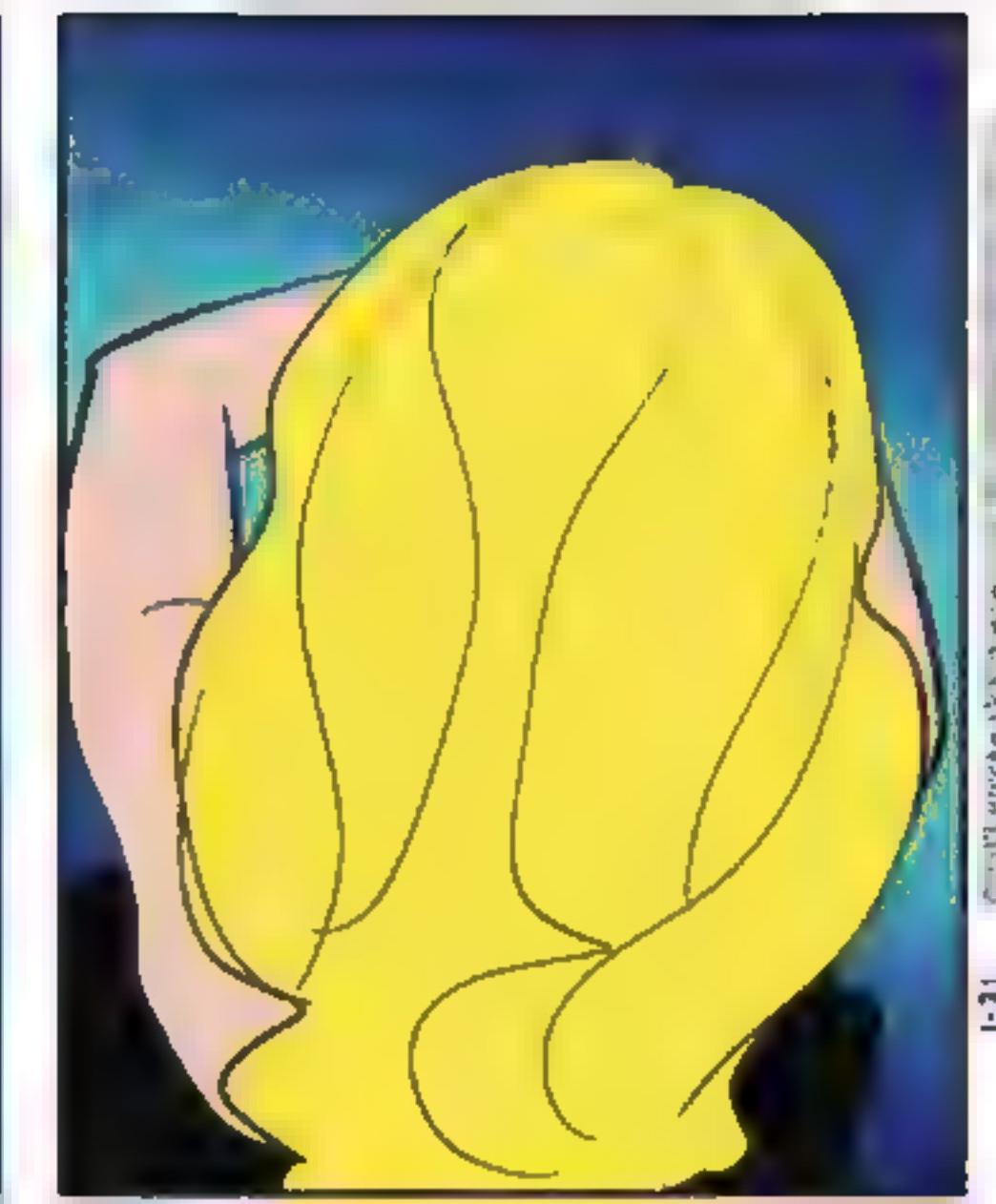
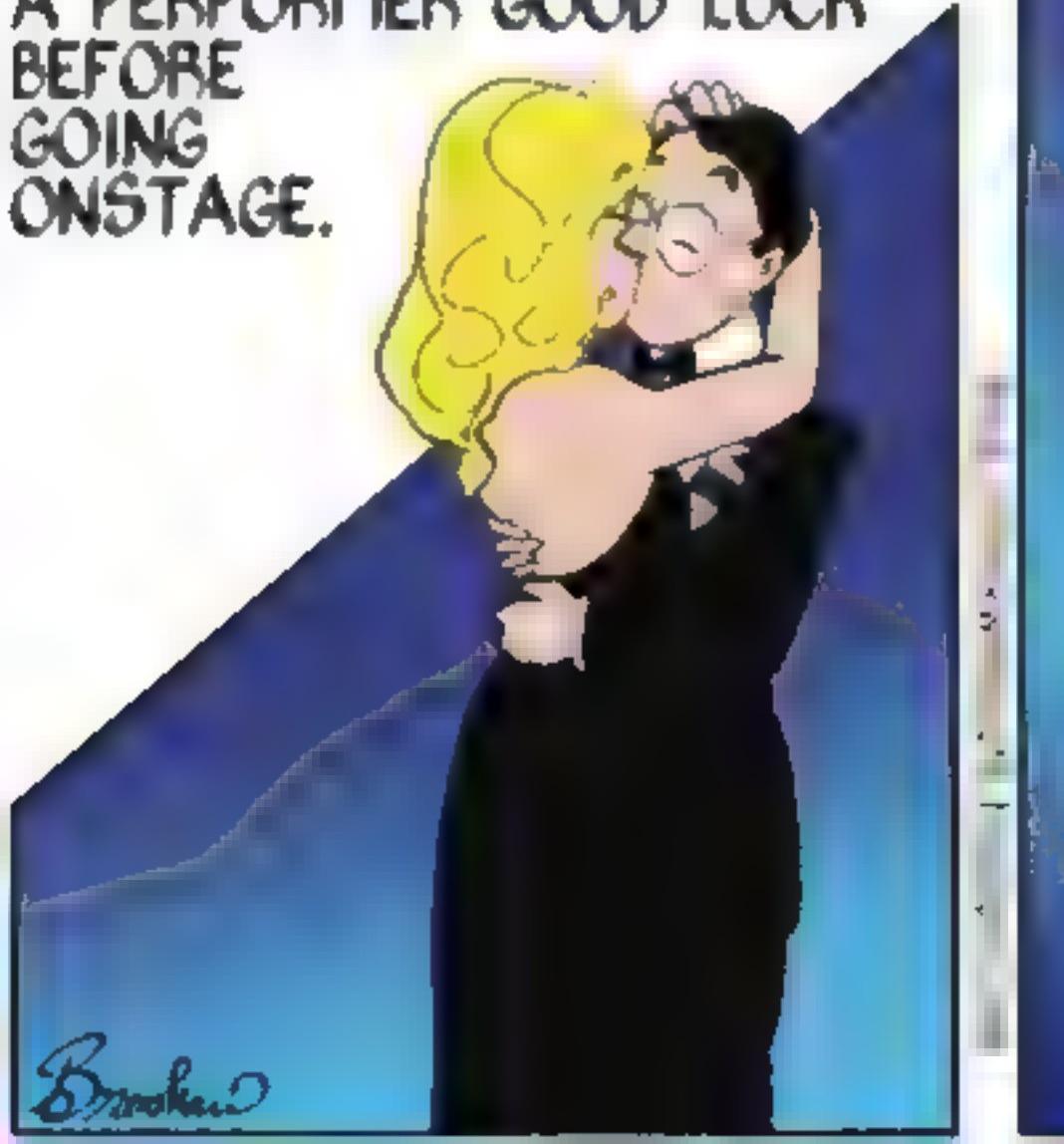


IT IS INADVISABLE TO
TELL A PIANIST THE MOST
OBSCENE KNOCK-KNOCK JOKE
EVER DEVISED. JUST SECONDS
BEFORE SHE GOES ON.





IT IS CUSTOMARY TO WISH
A PERFORMER GOOD LUCK
BEFORE
GOING
ONSTAGE.



THERE IS, HOWEVER, SUCH
A THING AS
TOO MUCH
LUCK.



NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY
REHEarsed,

EVERY PERFORM-
ANCE HAS
AN ELEMENT...

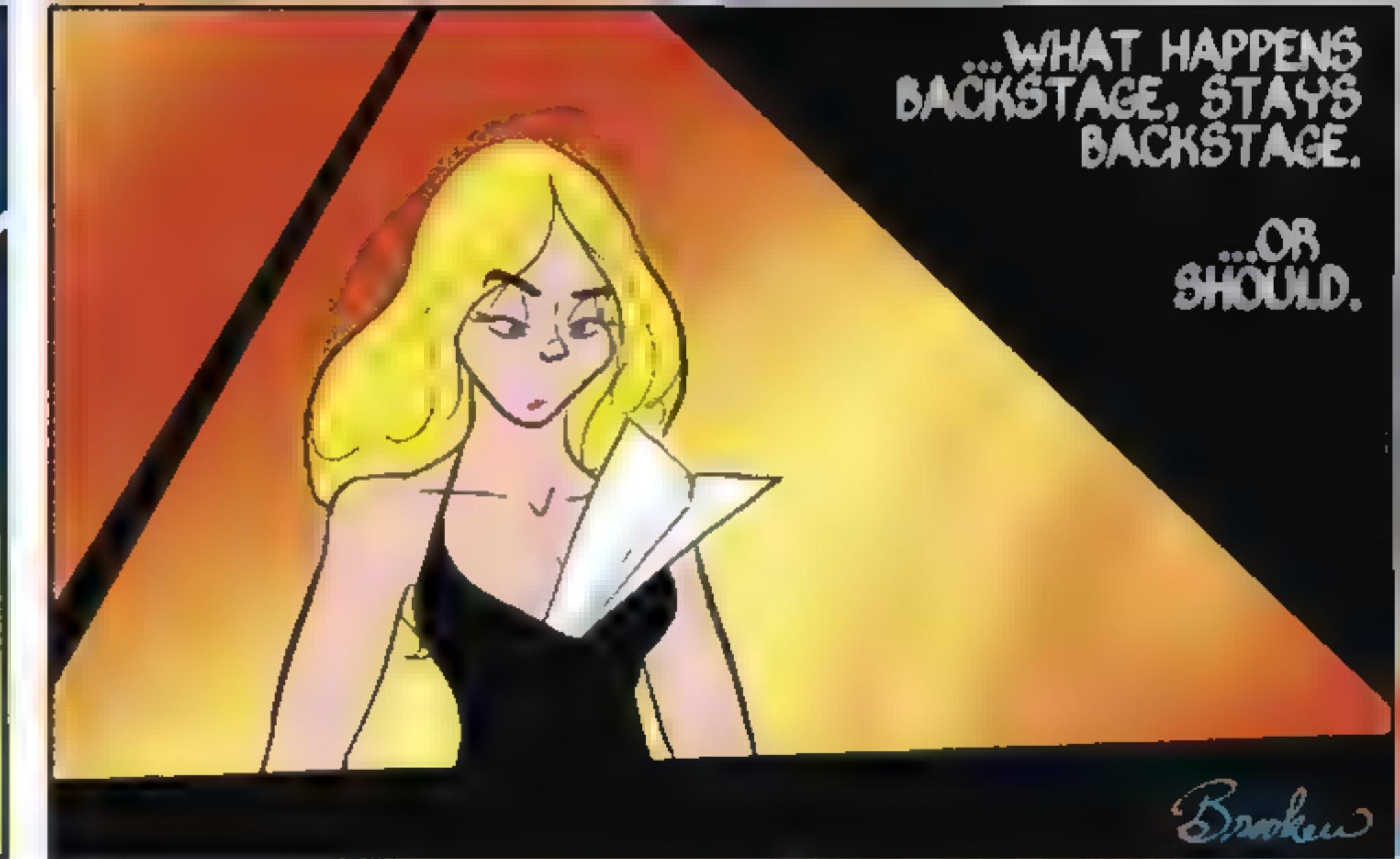


...OF DETERMINACY.

Brodus

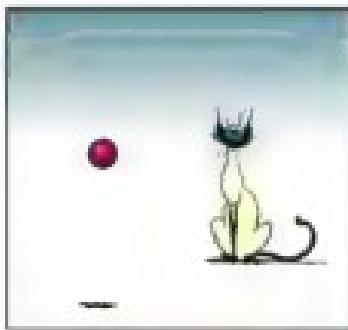


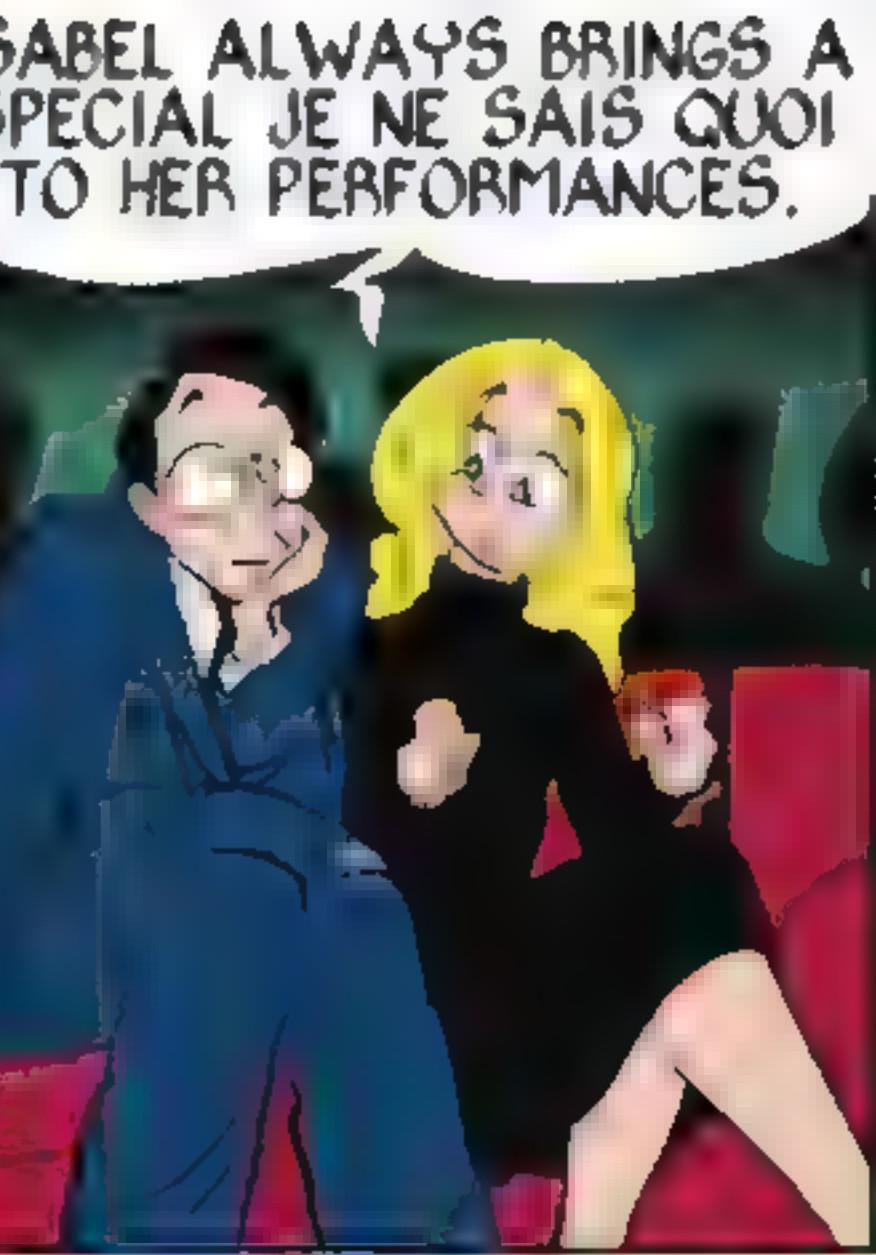
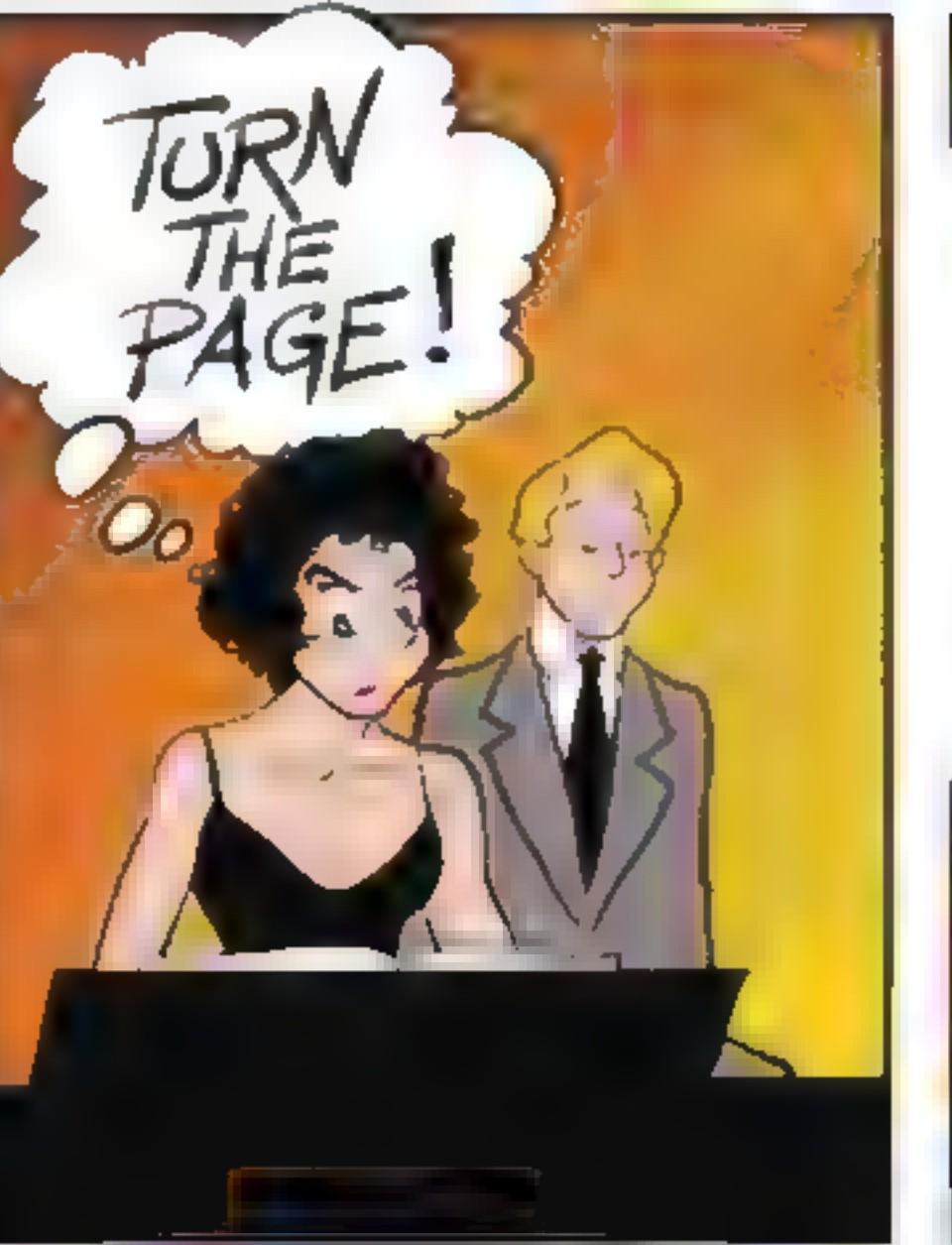
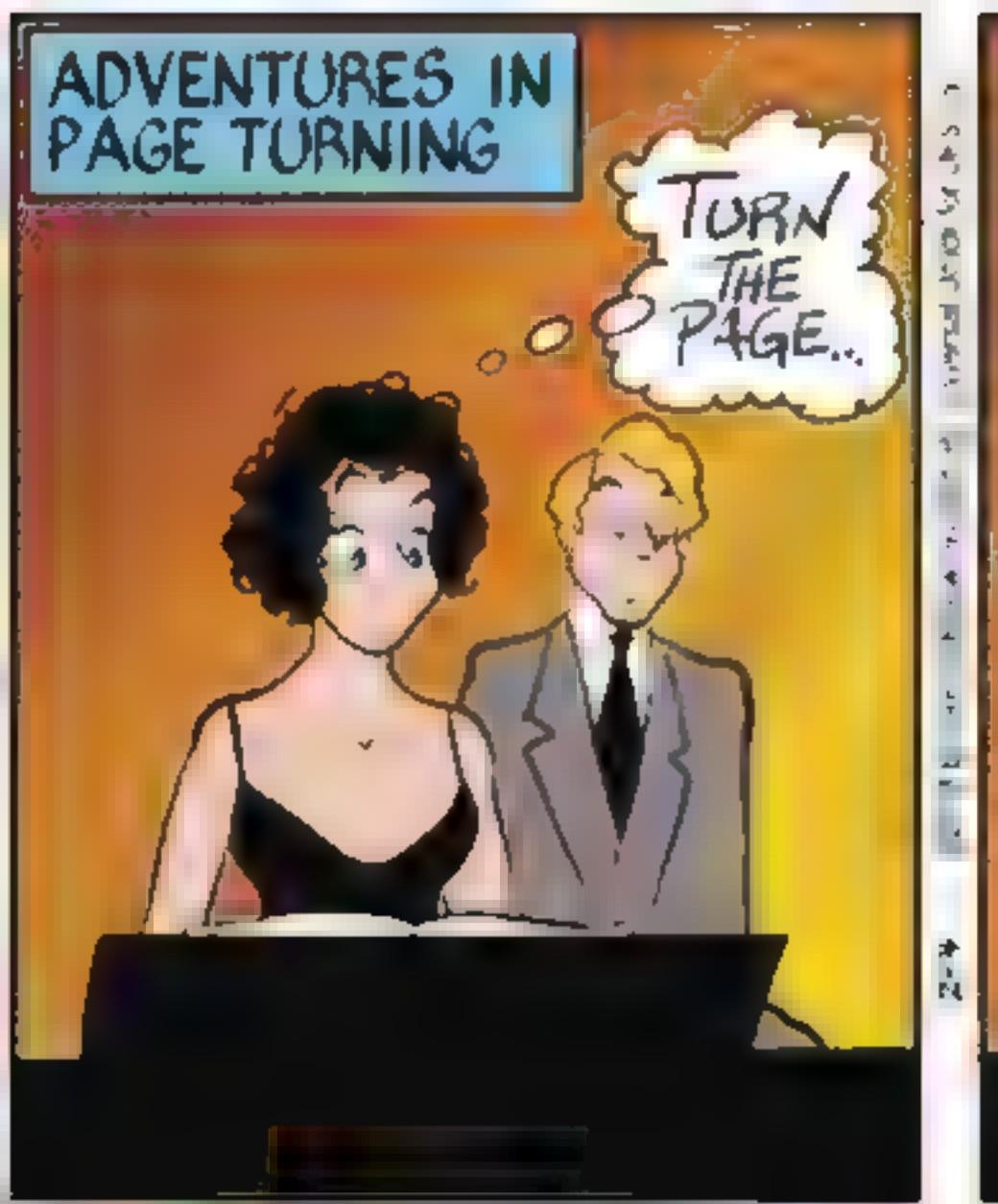
IN
MUSICAL
PERFORM-
ANCE...

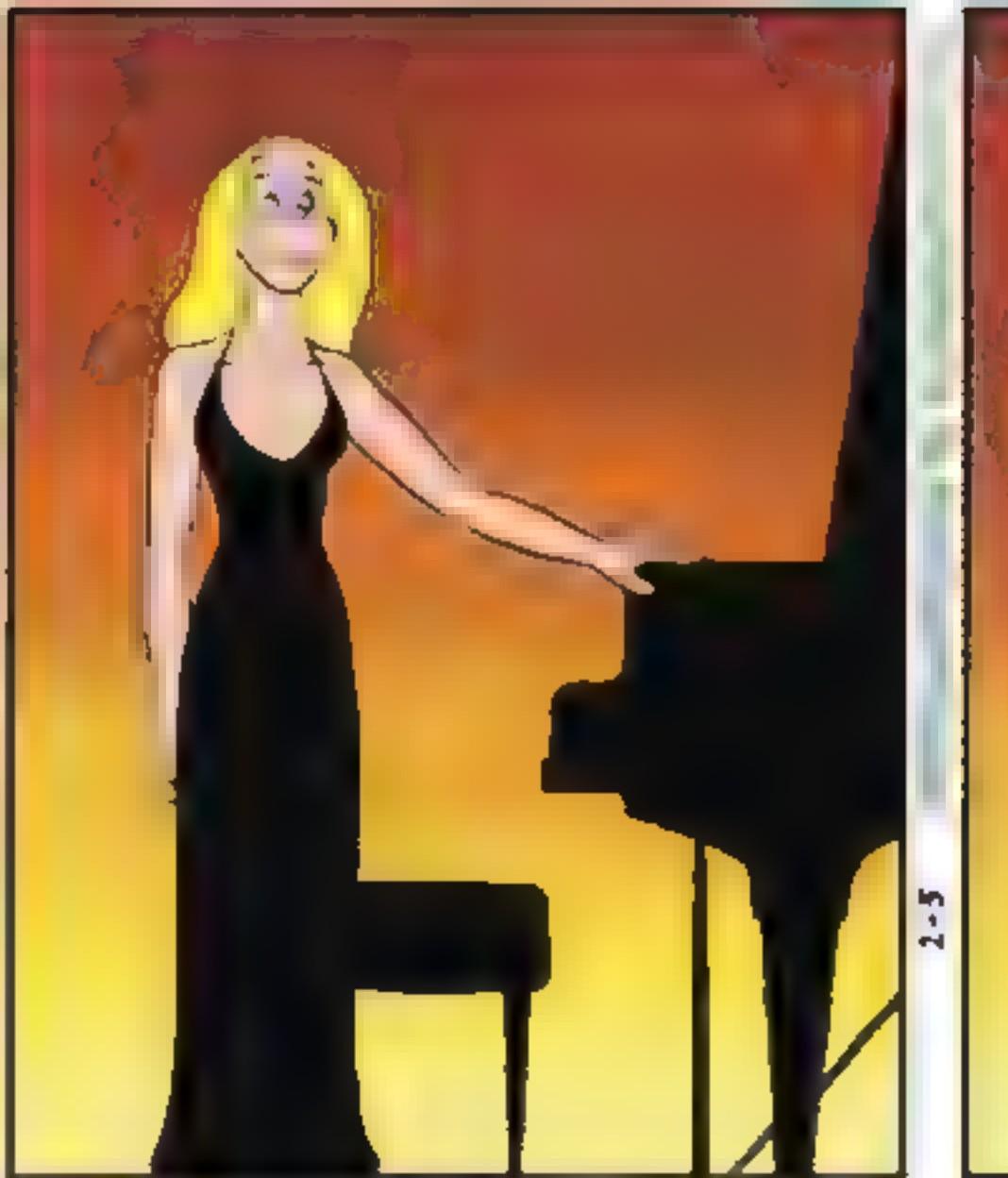


...WHAT HAPPENS
BACKSTAGE, STAYS
BACKSTAGE.
...OR
SHOULD.

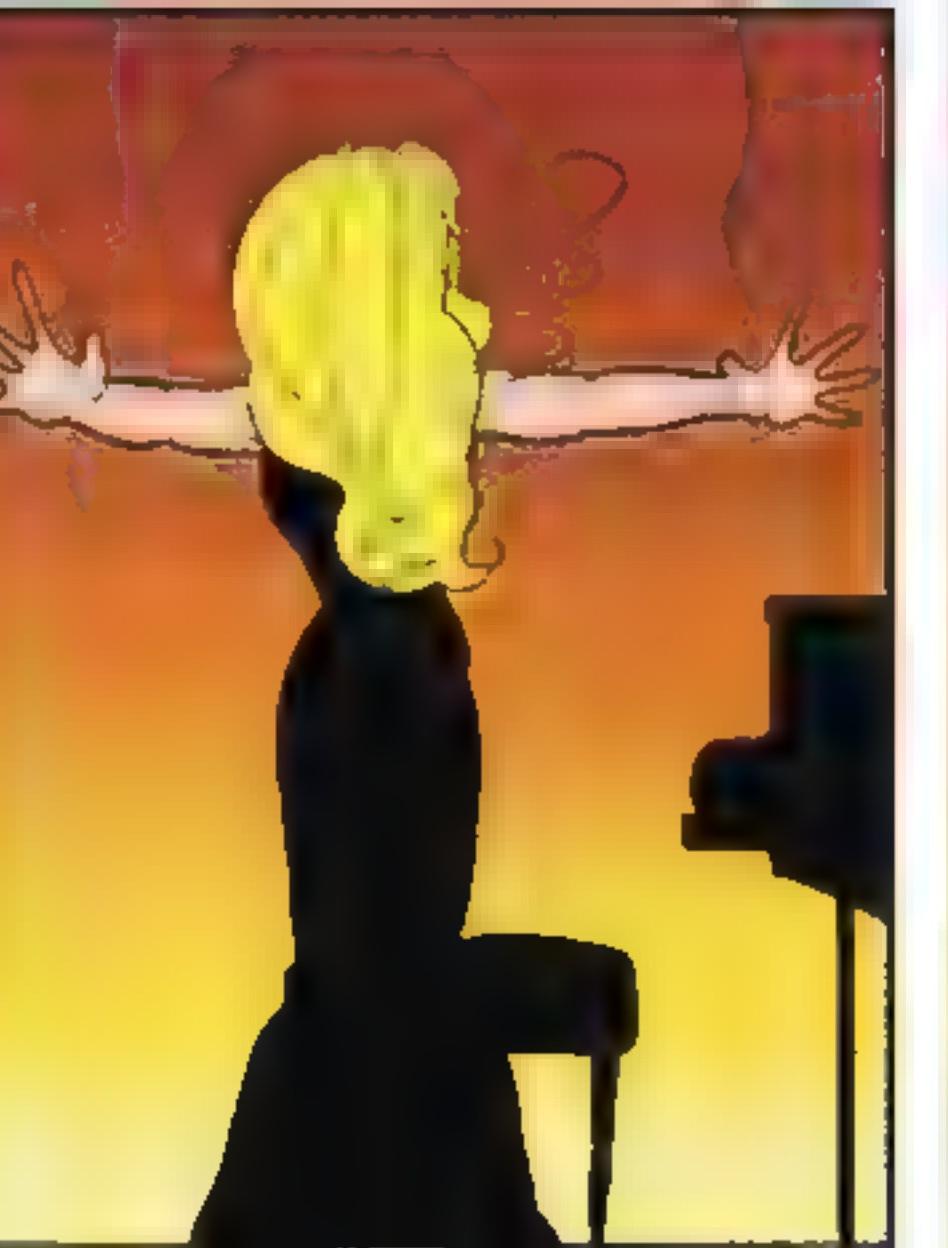
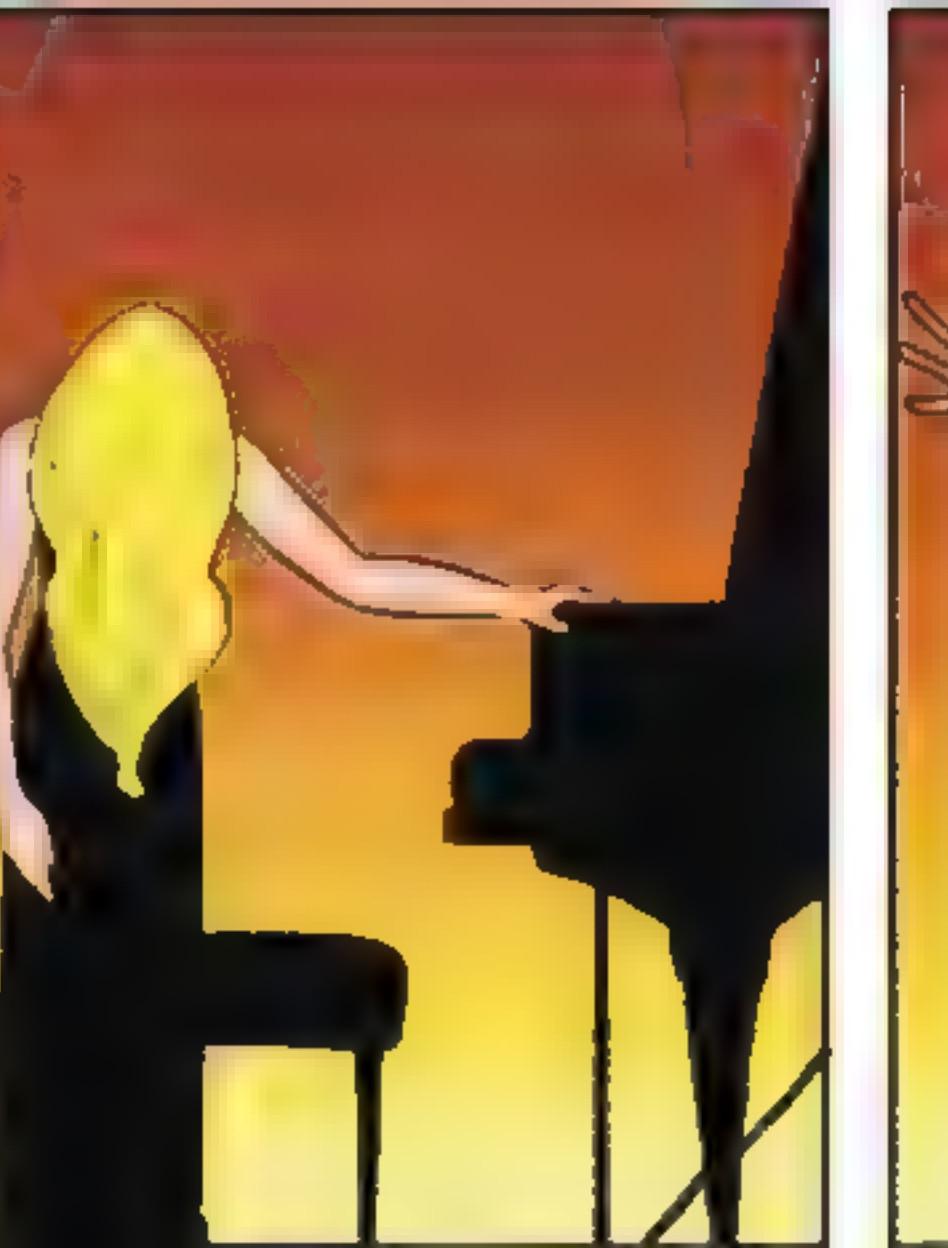
Brooks





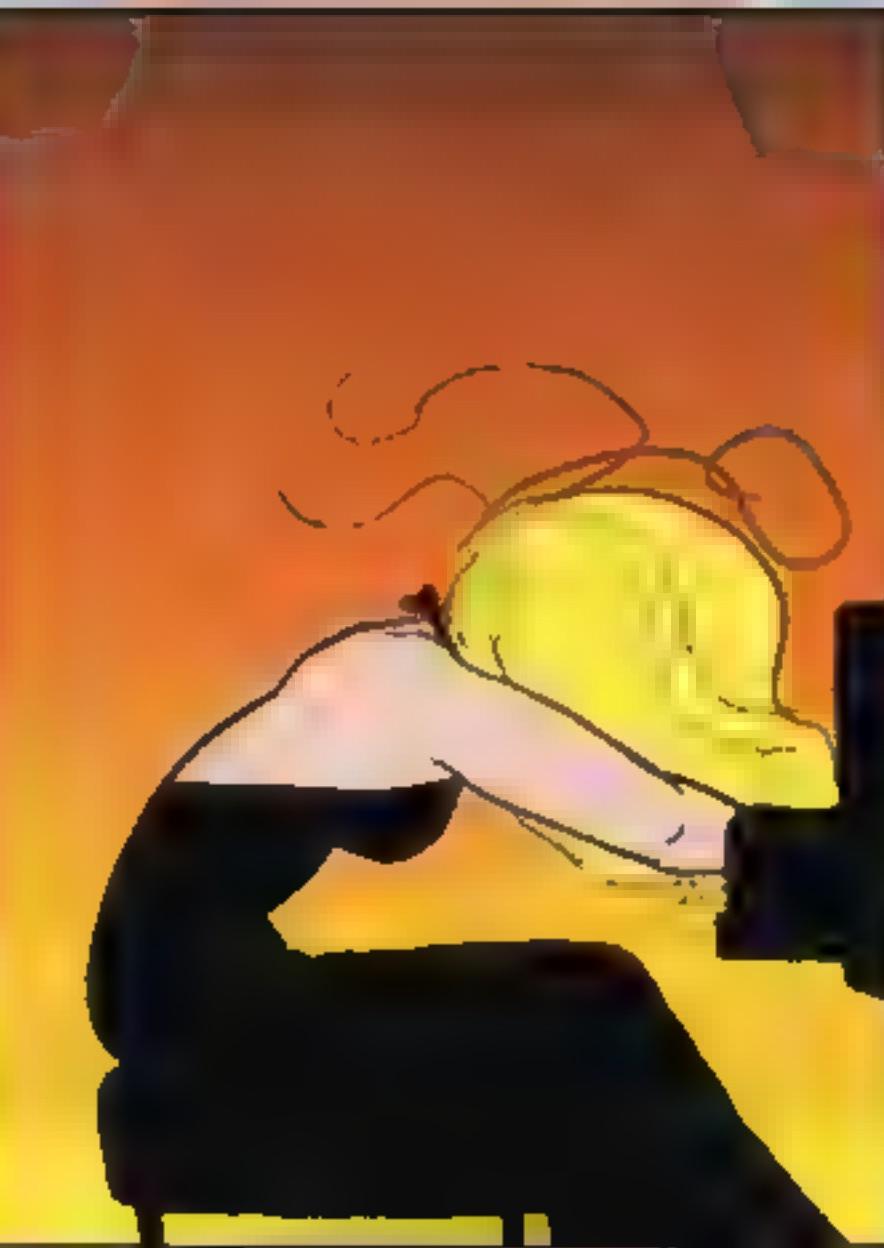
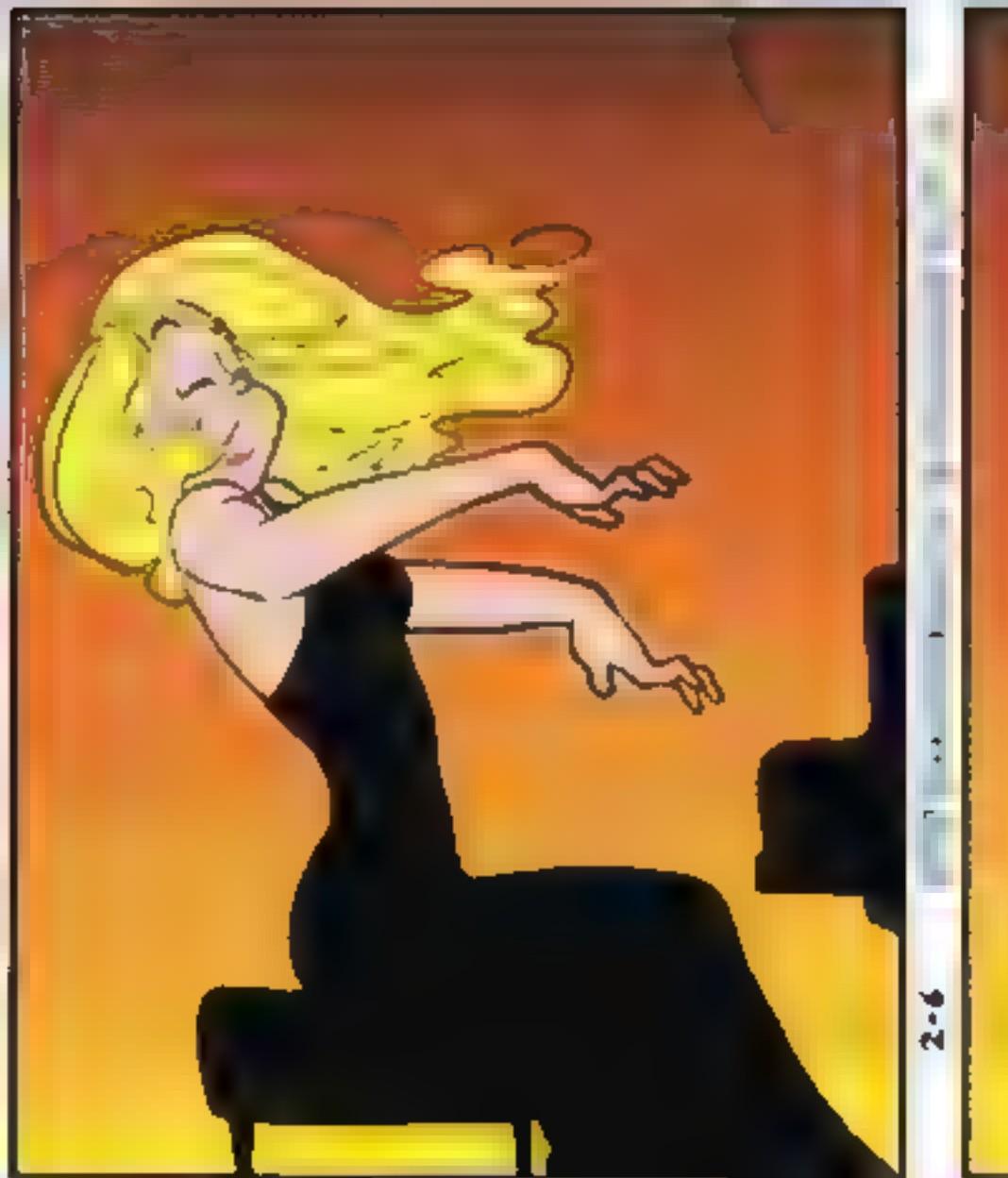


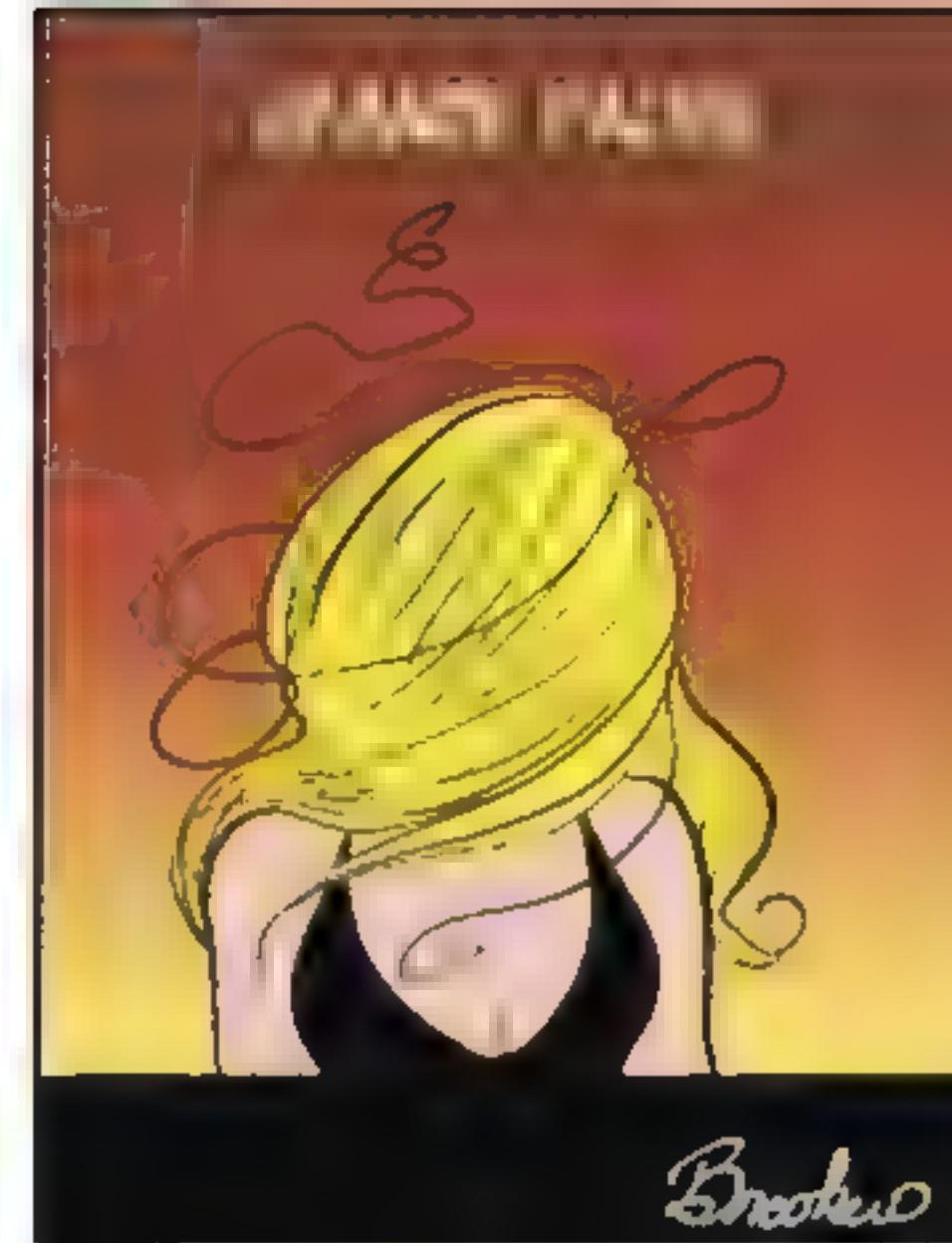
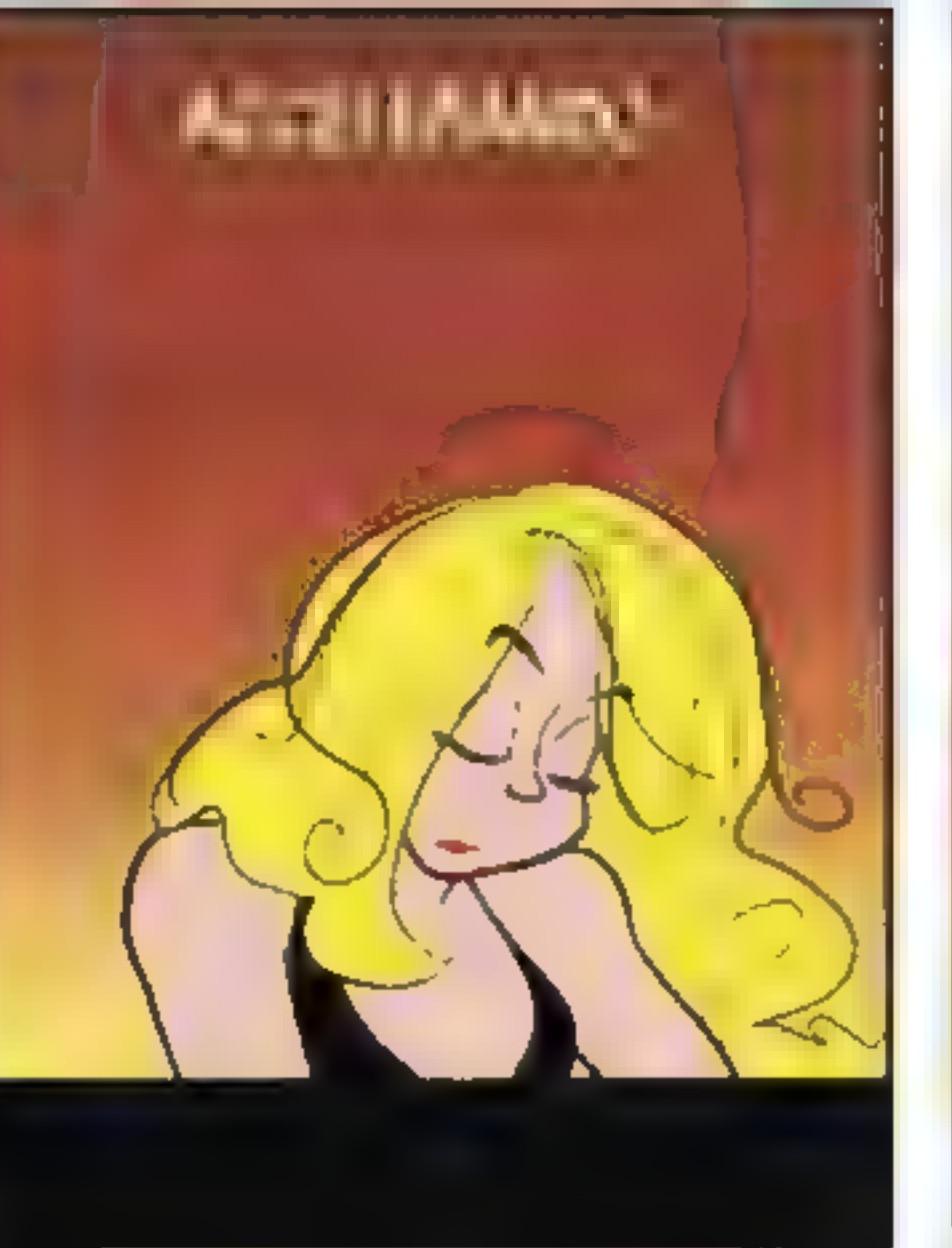
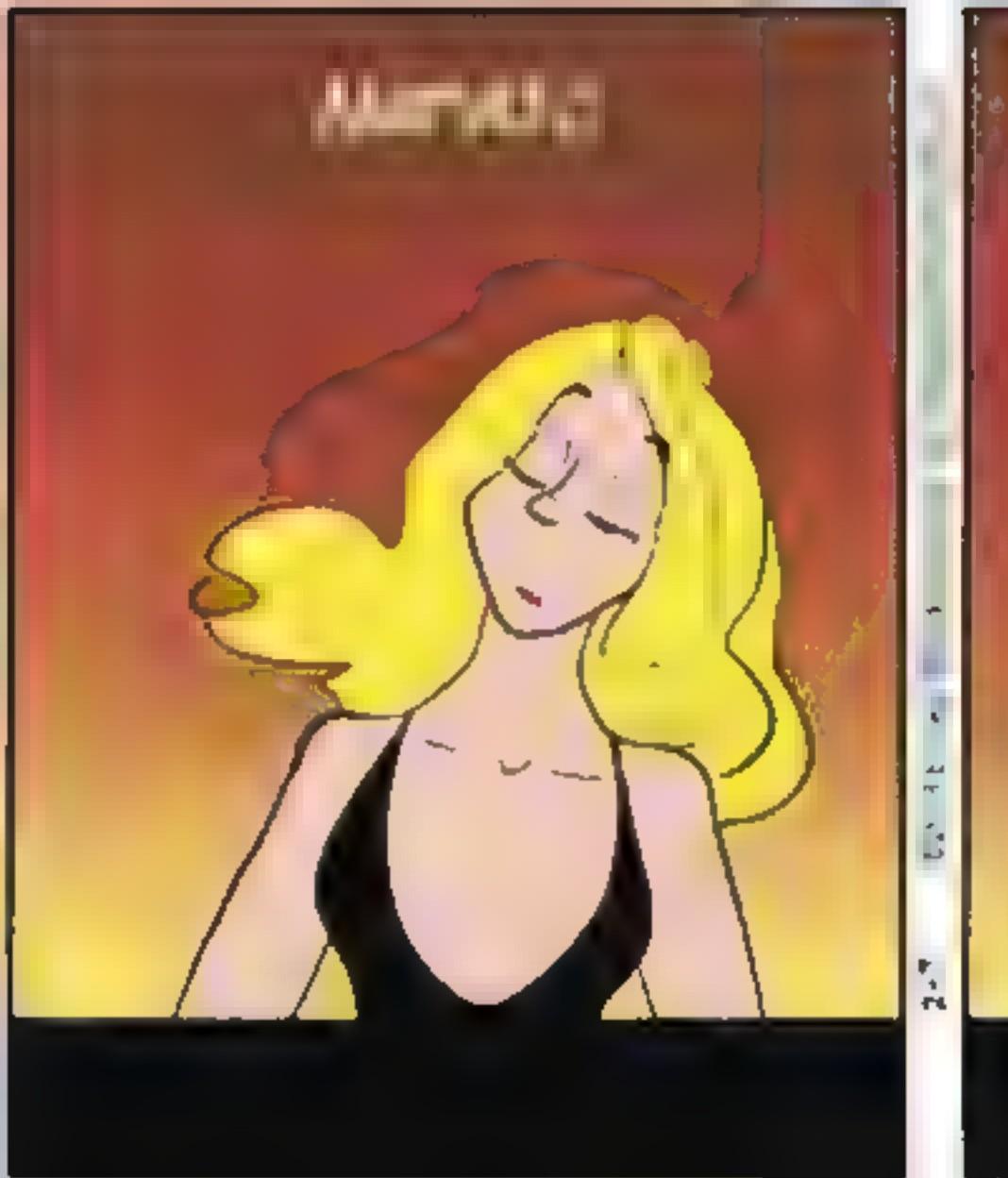
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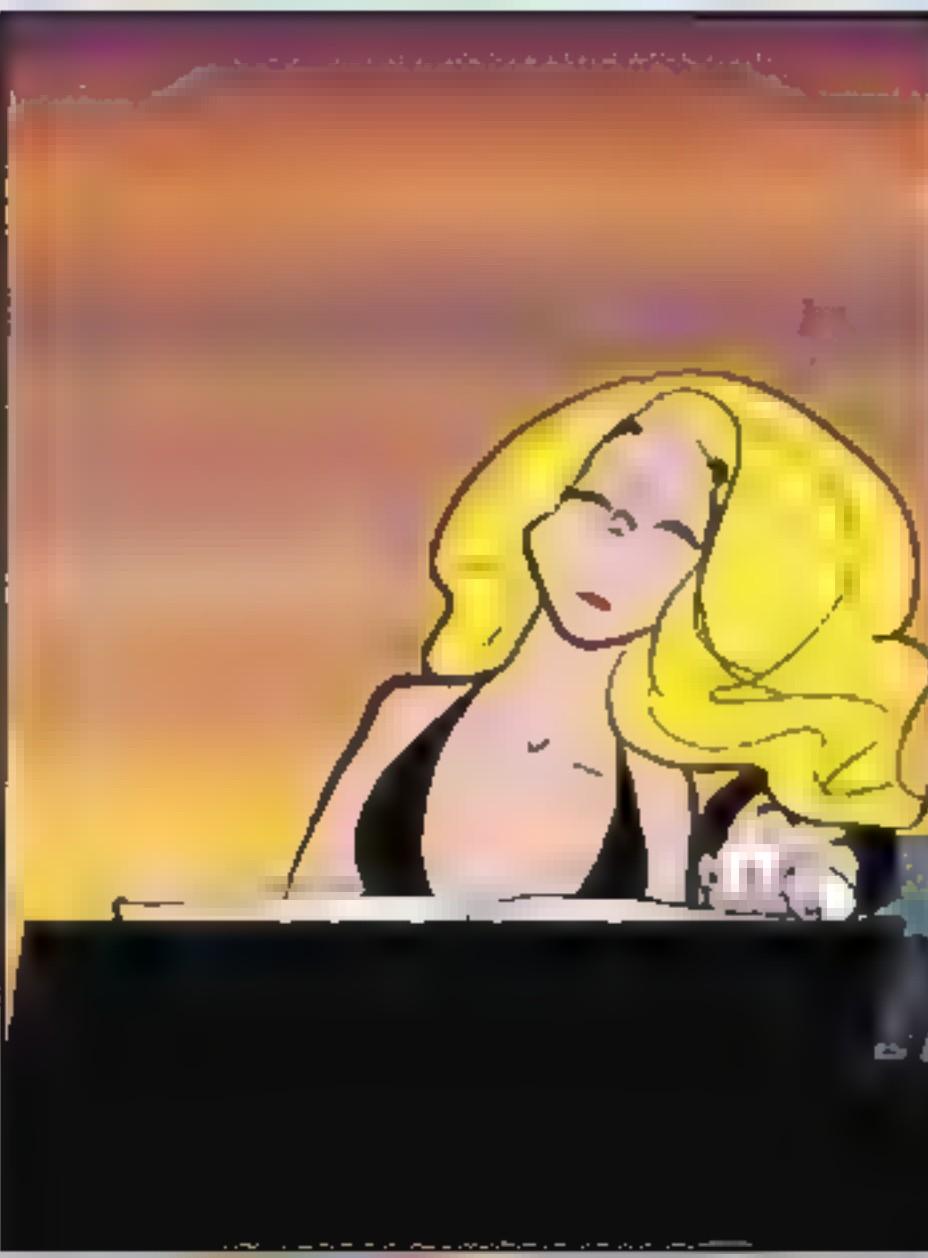


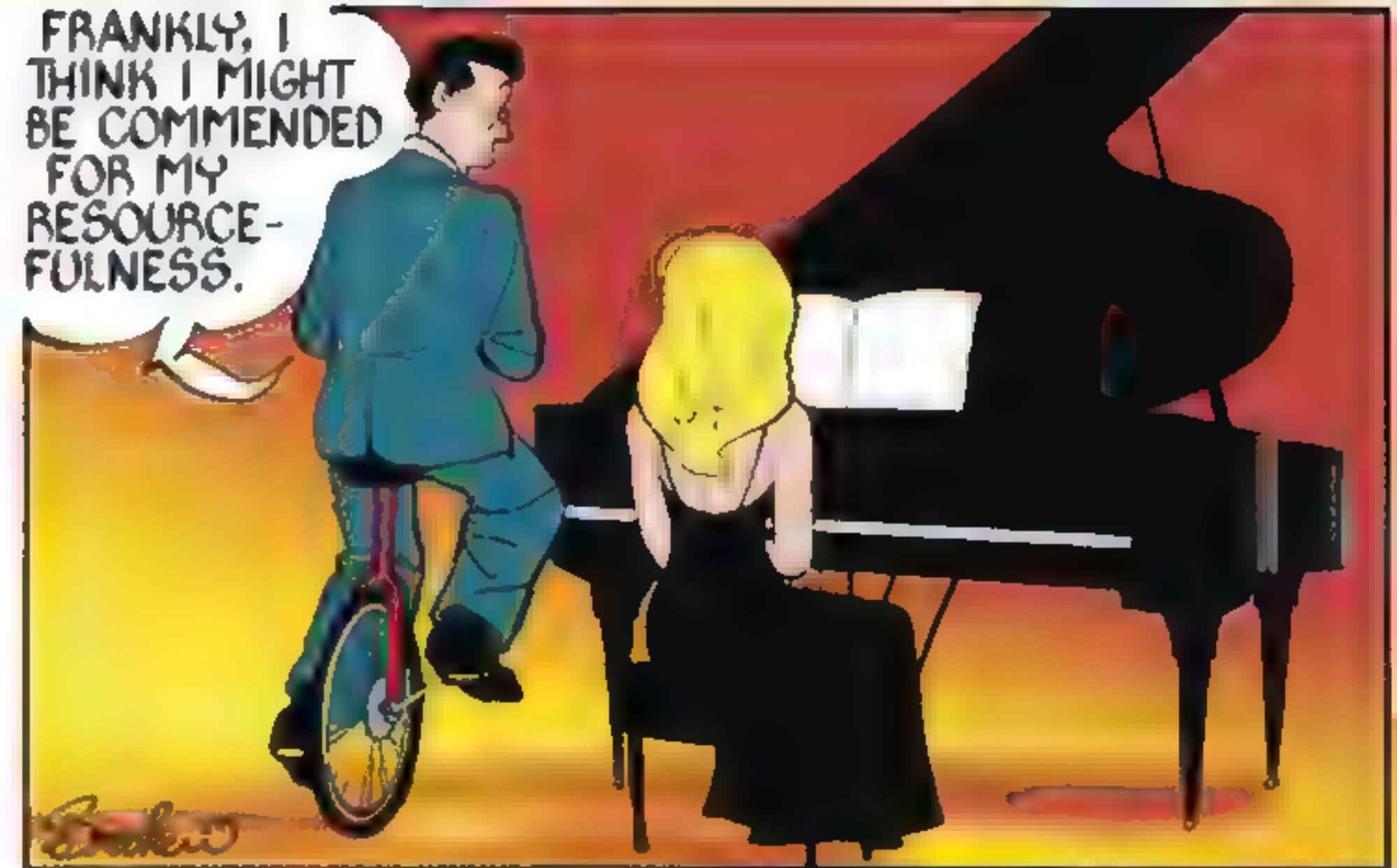
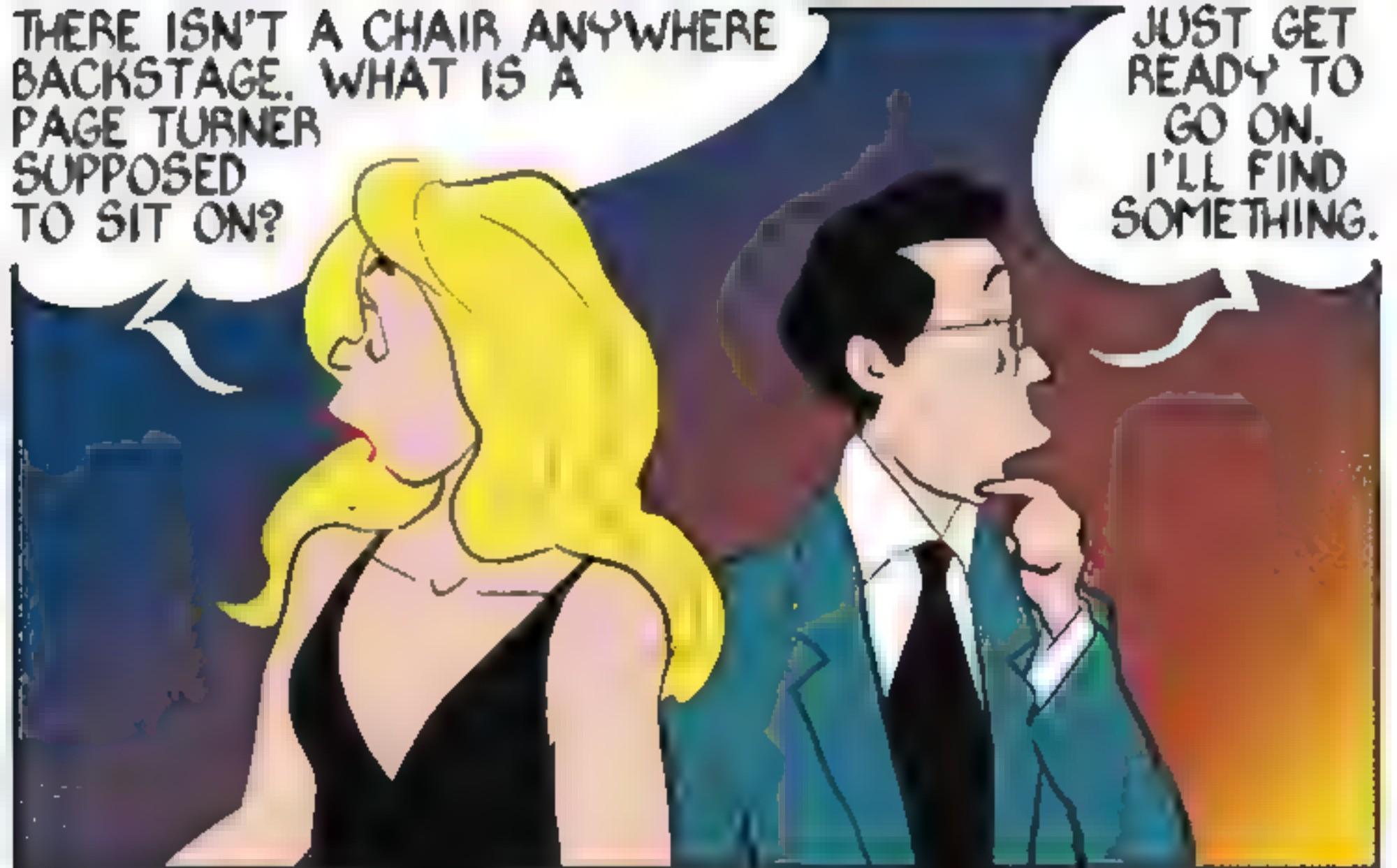
Braden

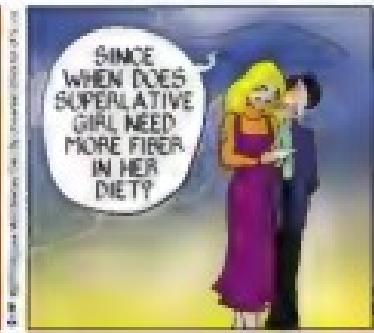
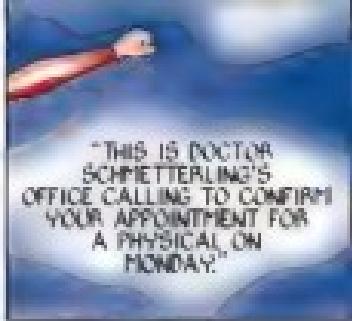


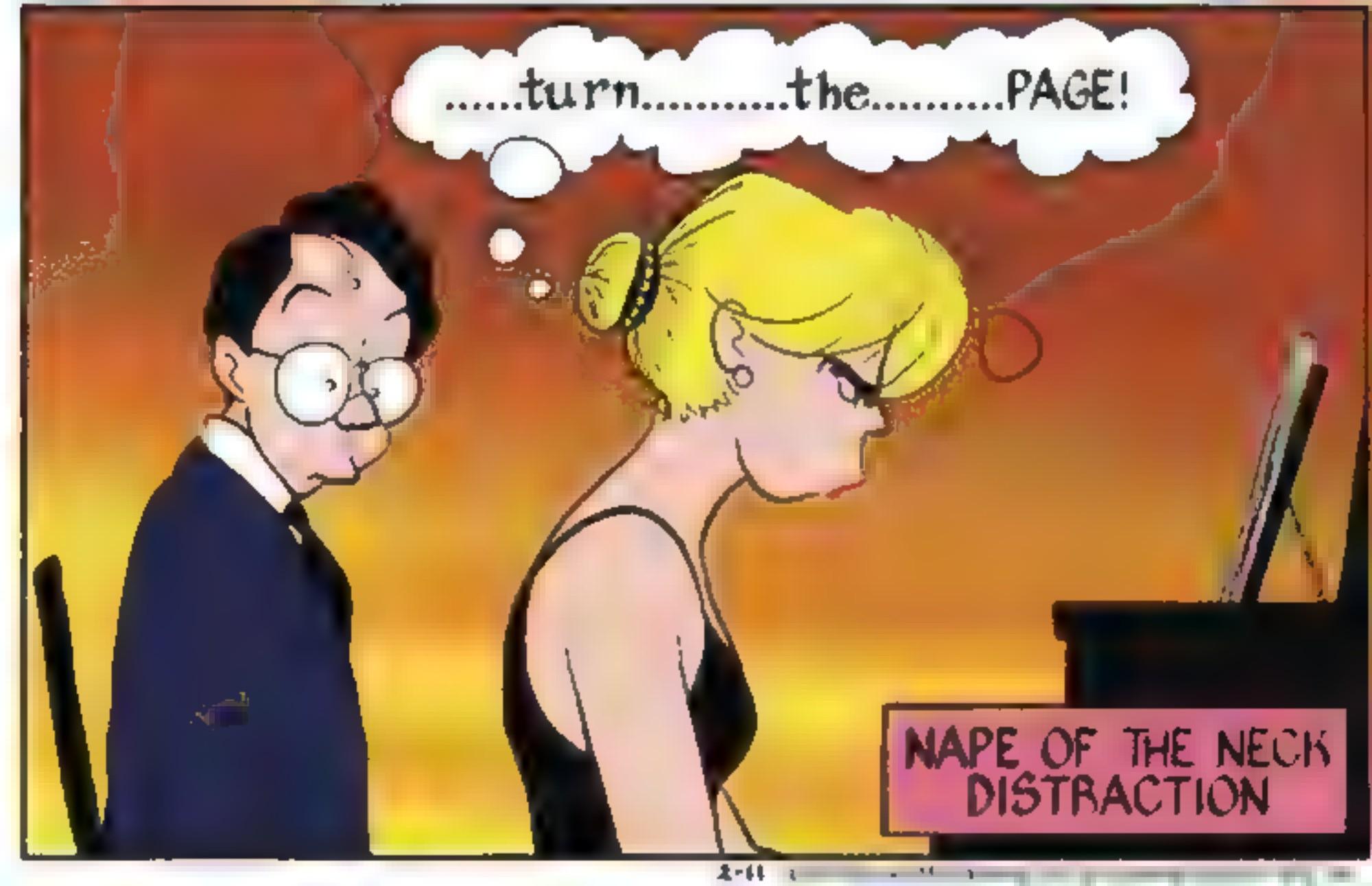


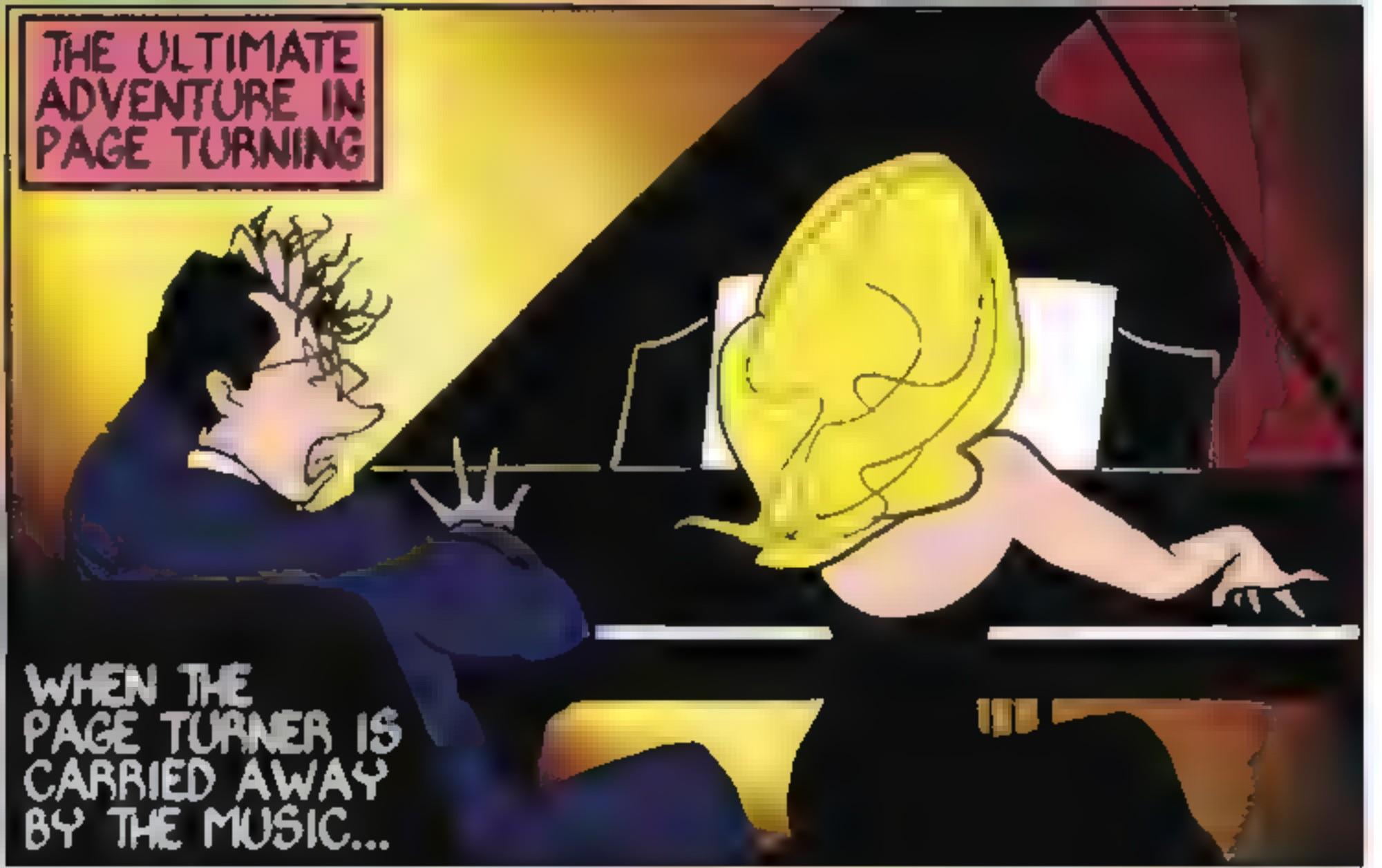


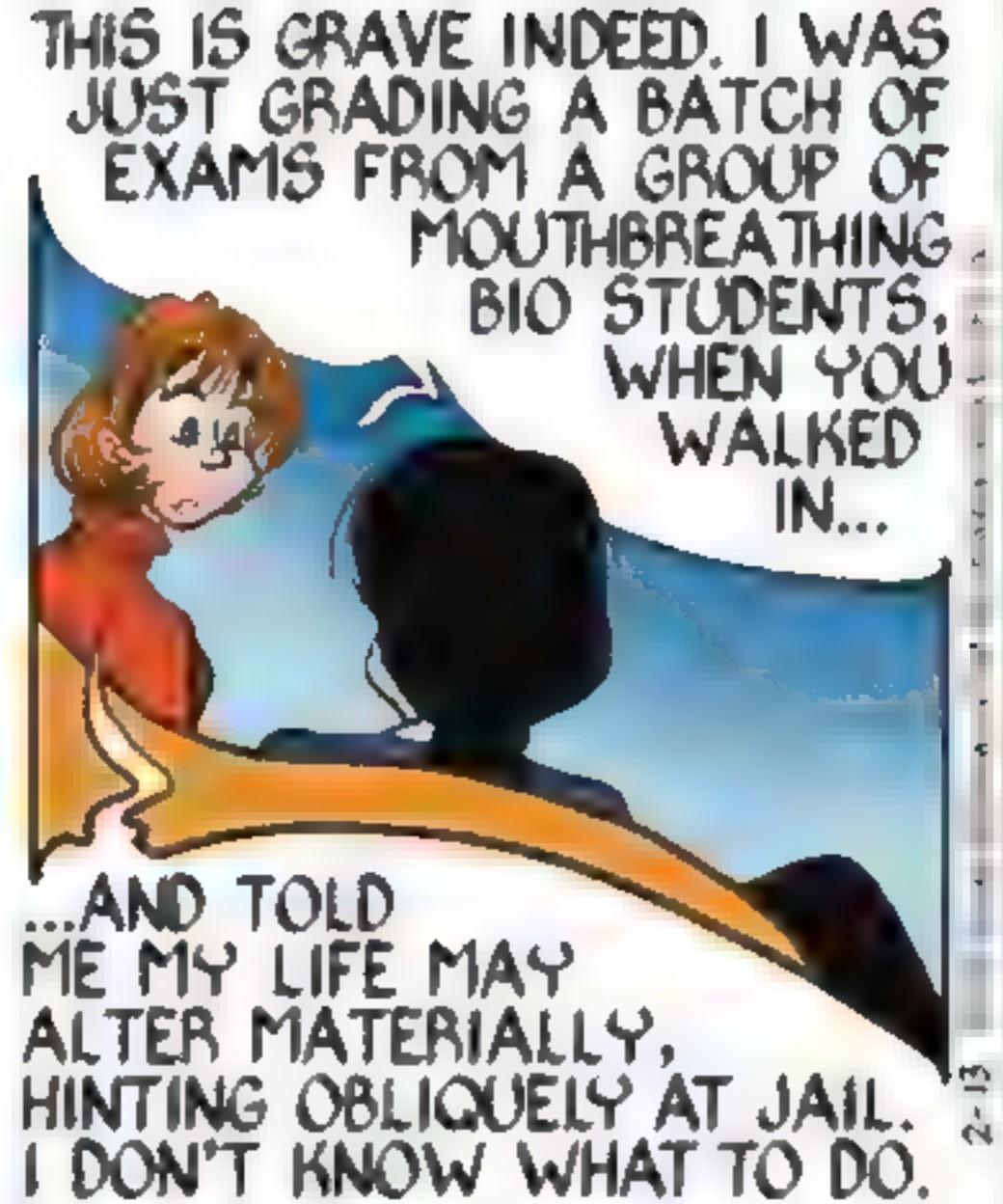




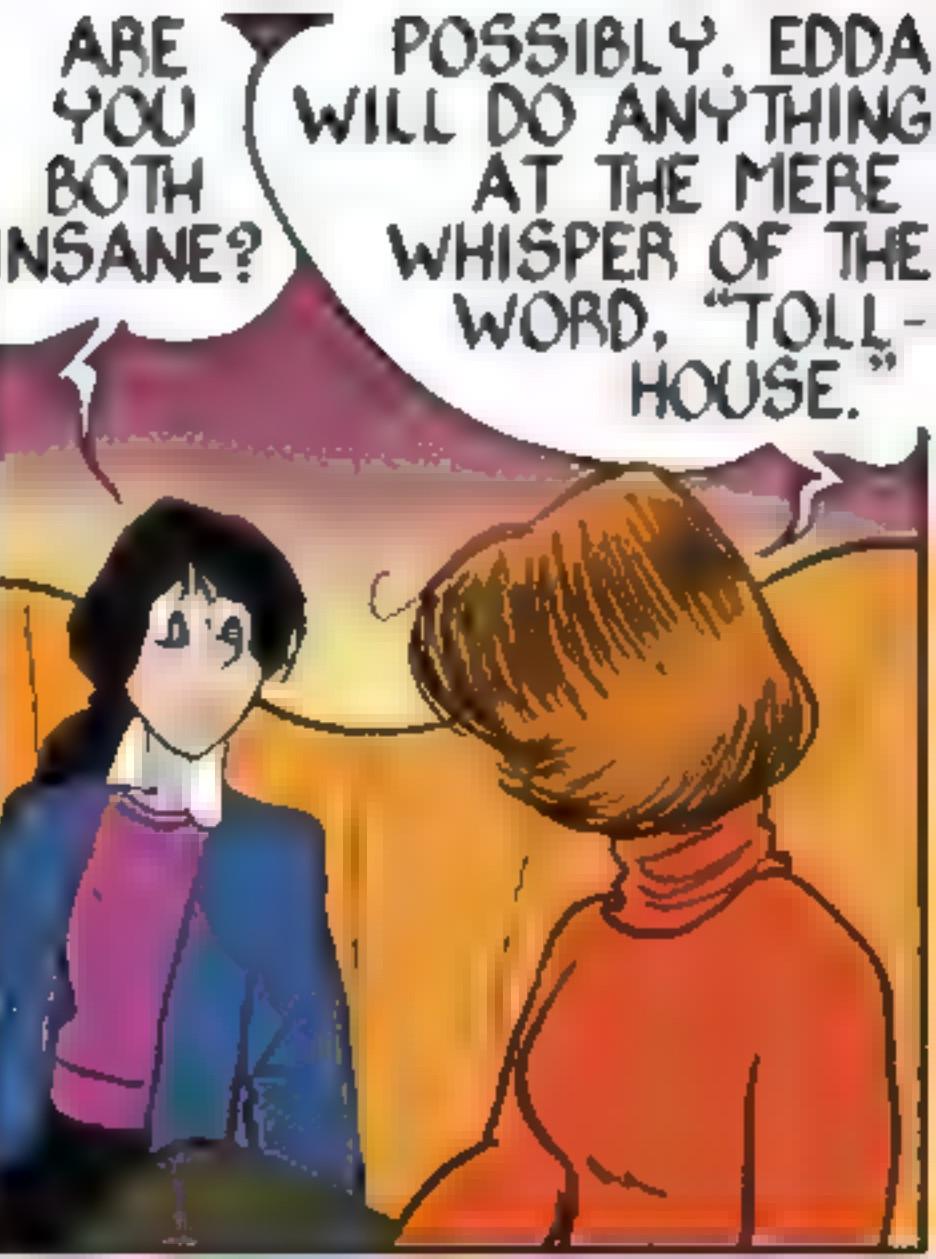
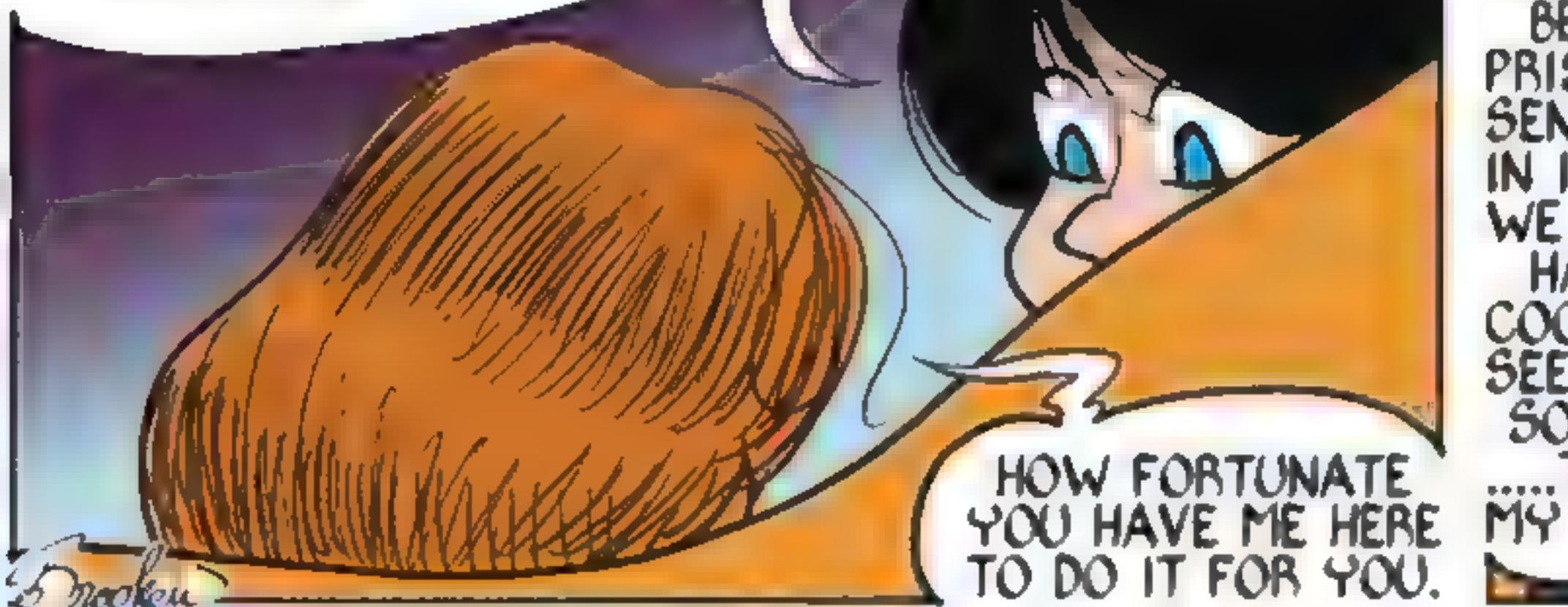


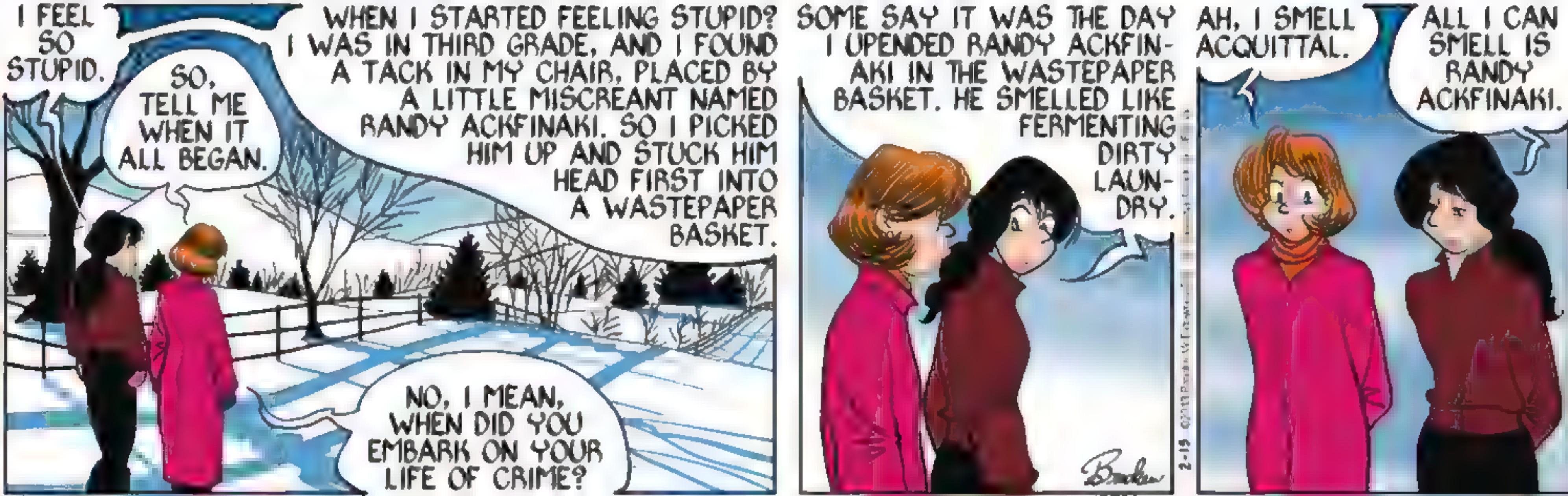


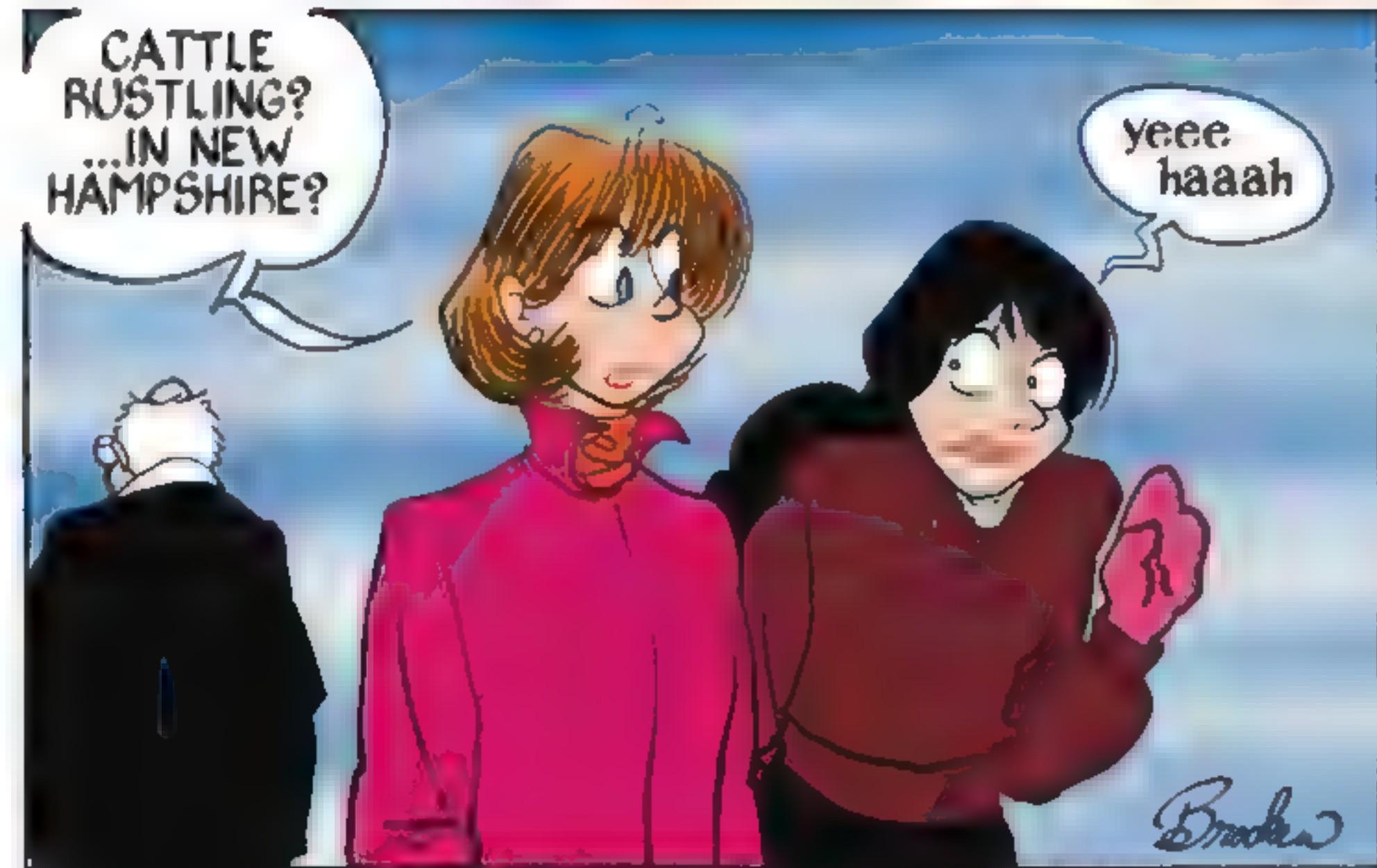
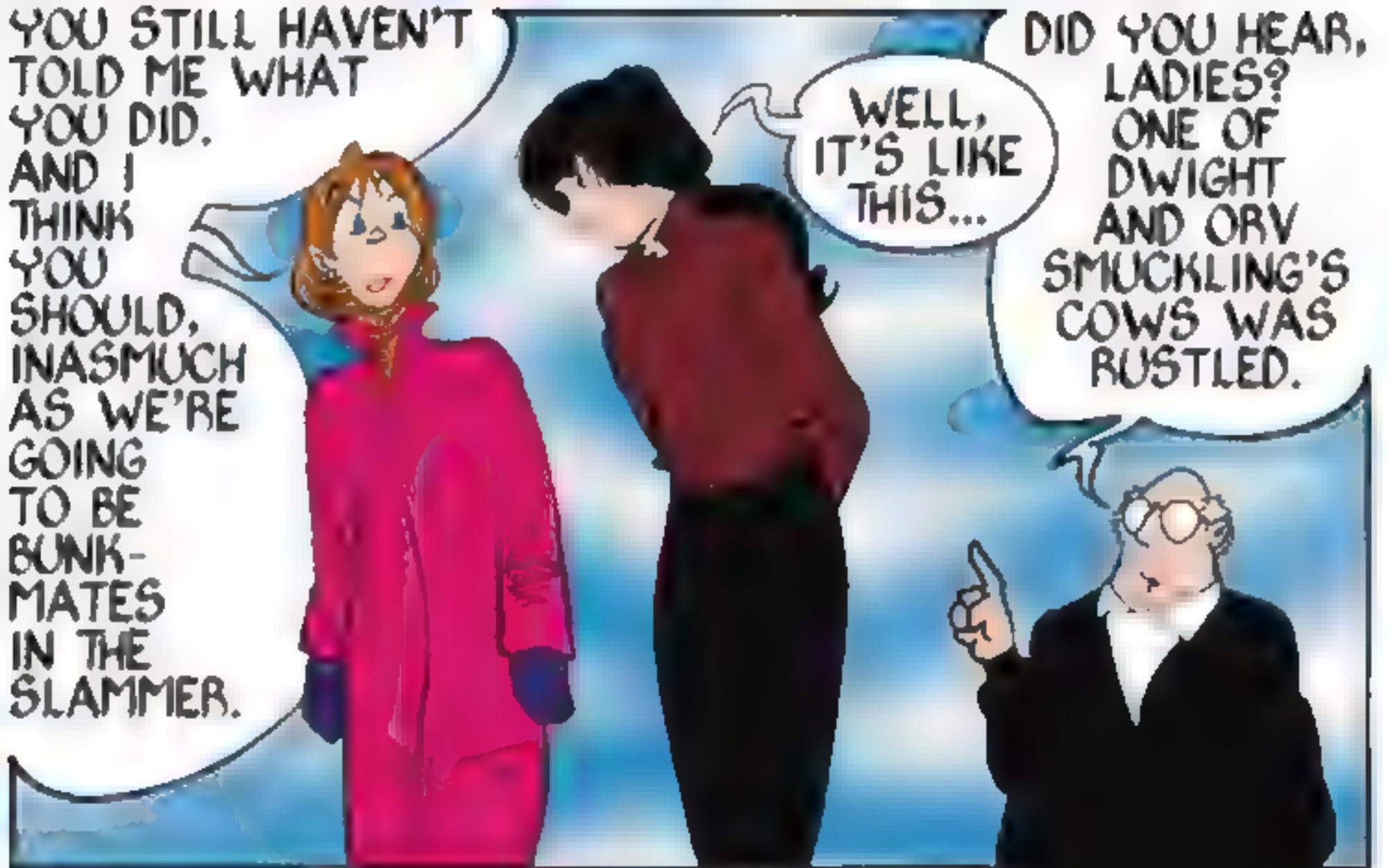




I ACTED VERY RASHLY, BUT I COULDN'T TURN BACK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN AS A RESULT. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW, I NEVER MAKE LIGHT OF A SERIOUS SITUATION.













SO, ORV AND DWIGHT POUNDED THEIR COW
WITH BATS, AND YOU RUSTLED HER.



Brooks

STOP IT,
GOO'





"THEY STOPPED POUNDING TWINKLY,
AND I LED HER INTO THE HEADLOCK BY
TICKLING HER EAR AND CALLING HER
SWEETIE PIE."



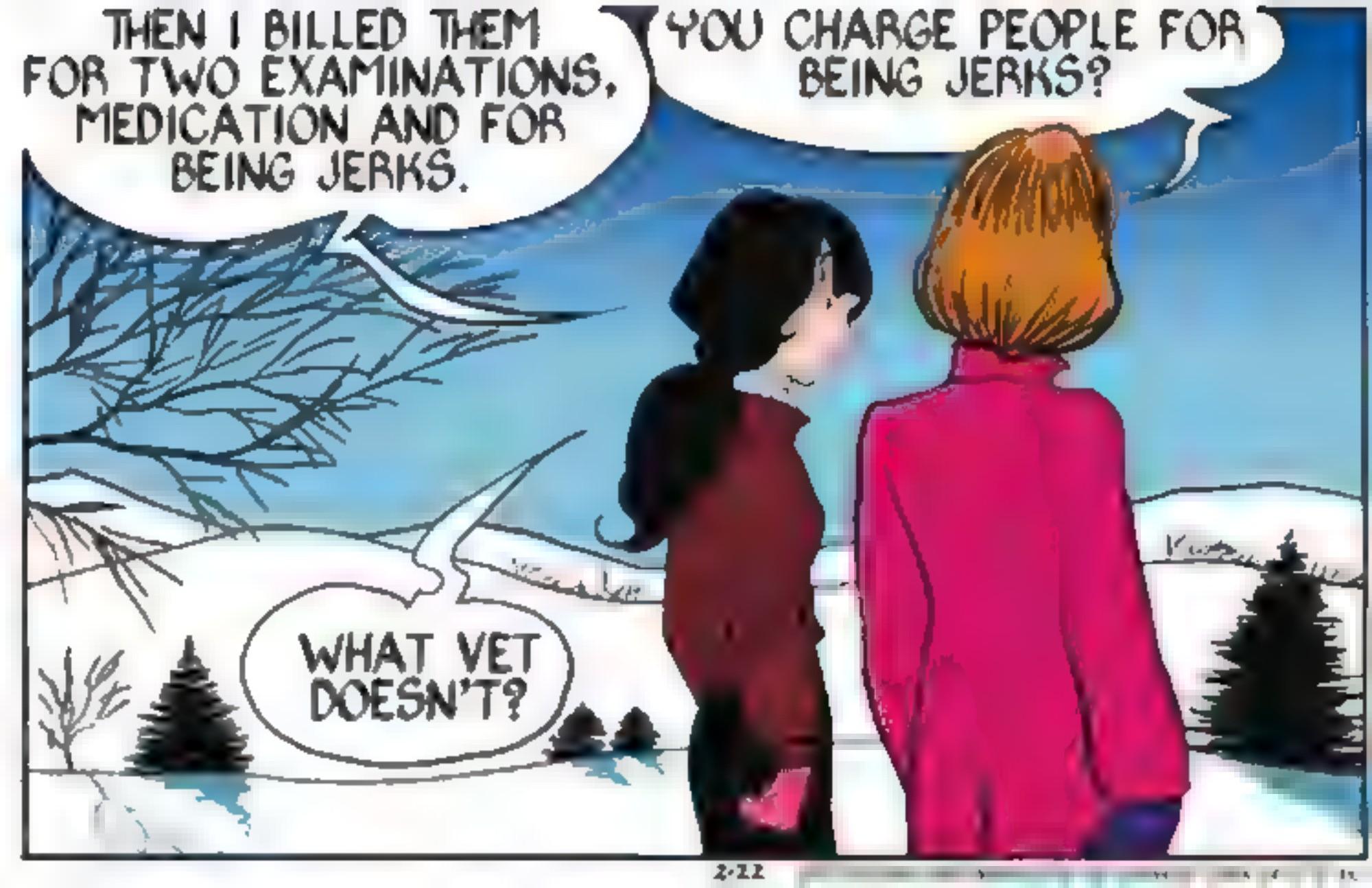


NO,
THEY CALLED
THE CALF "THE CALF."
I CALLED THE CALF ROCKY.

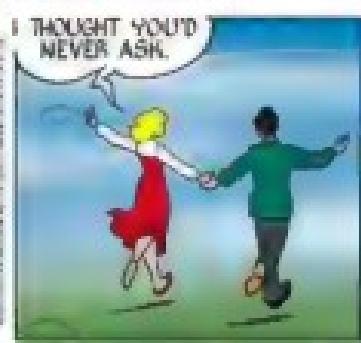
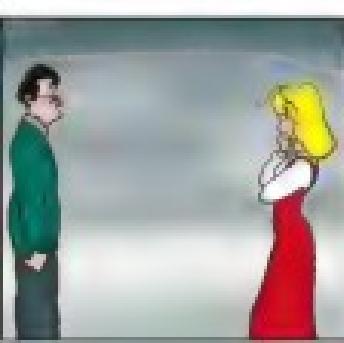
Brakew

SO, I EXAMINED
TWINKLY'S INFECTION,
GAVE HER A SUPPOSITORY,
EXAMINED HER CALF,
ROCKY...

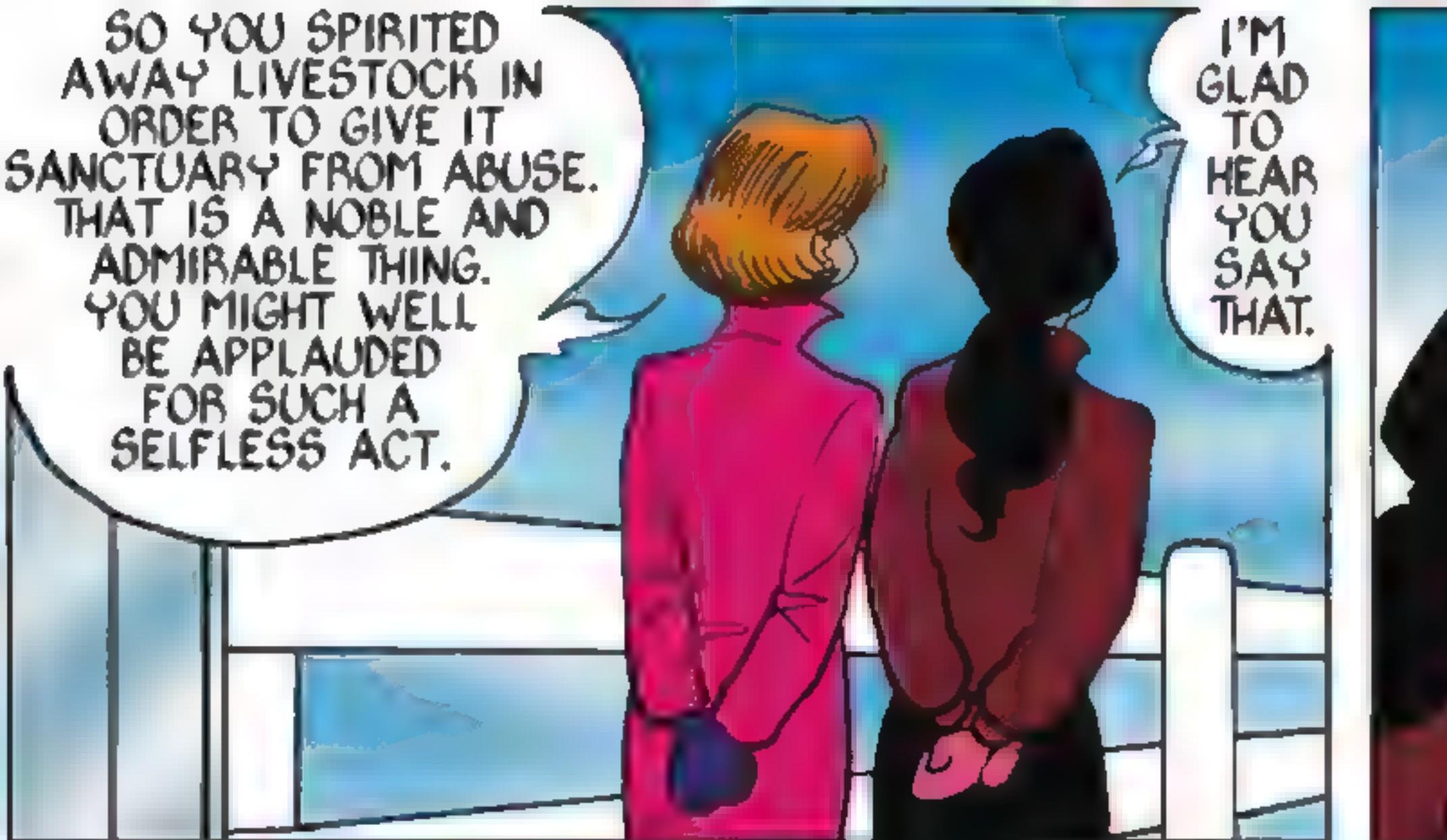
THEY
CALLED
THE CALF
"ROCKY"?

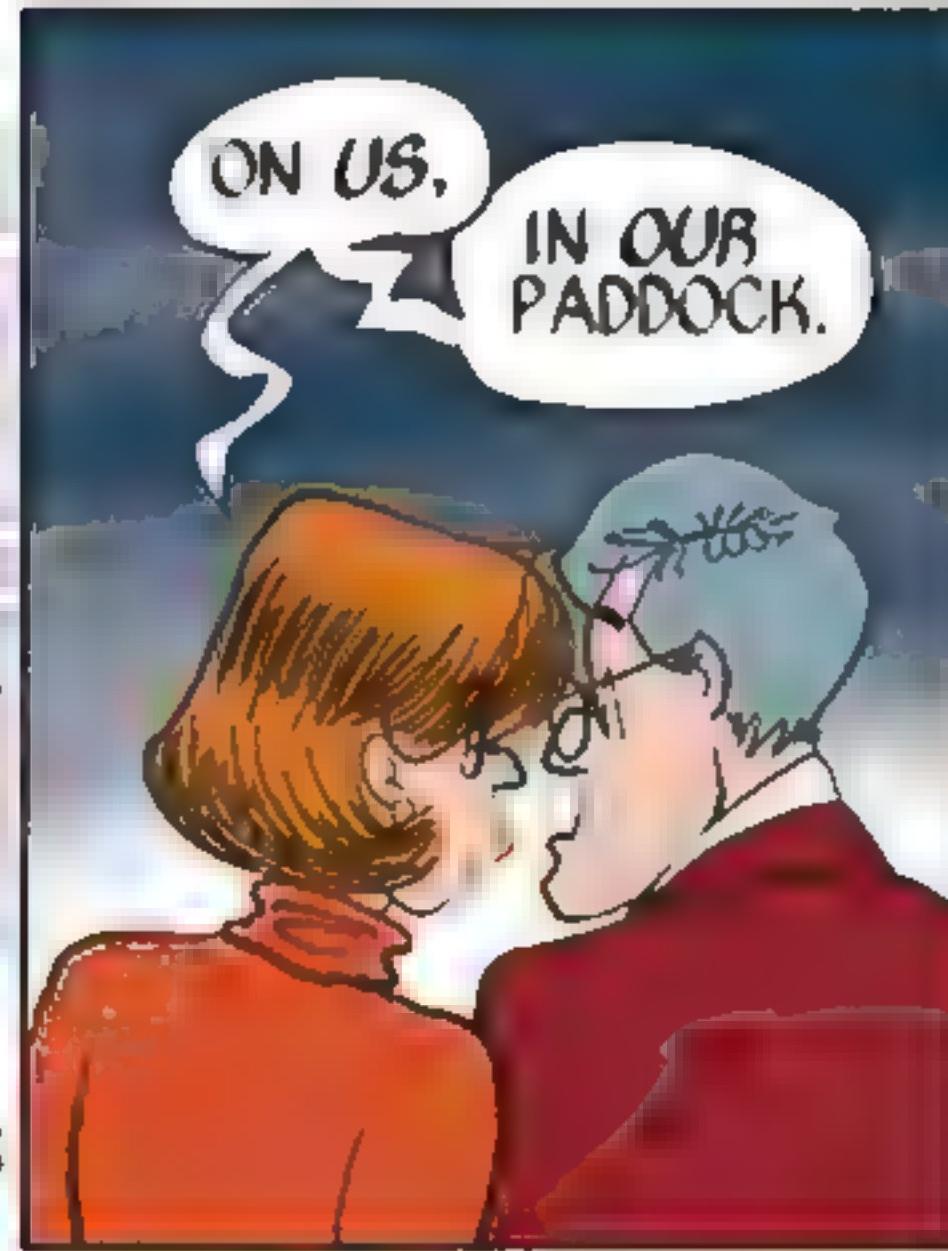






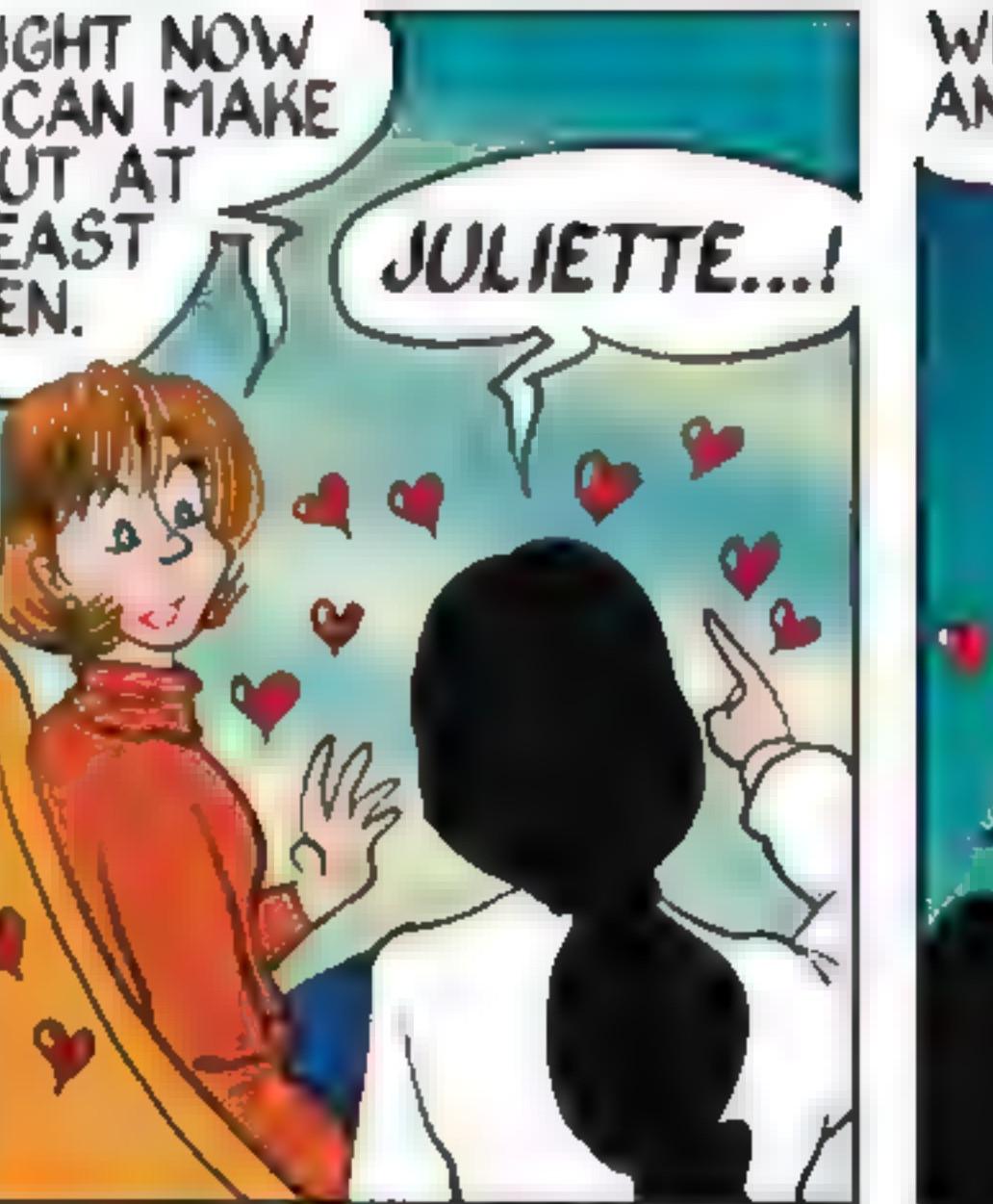


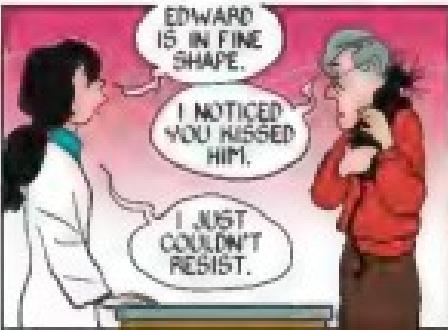


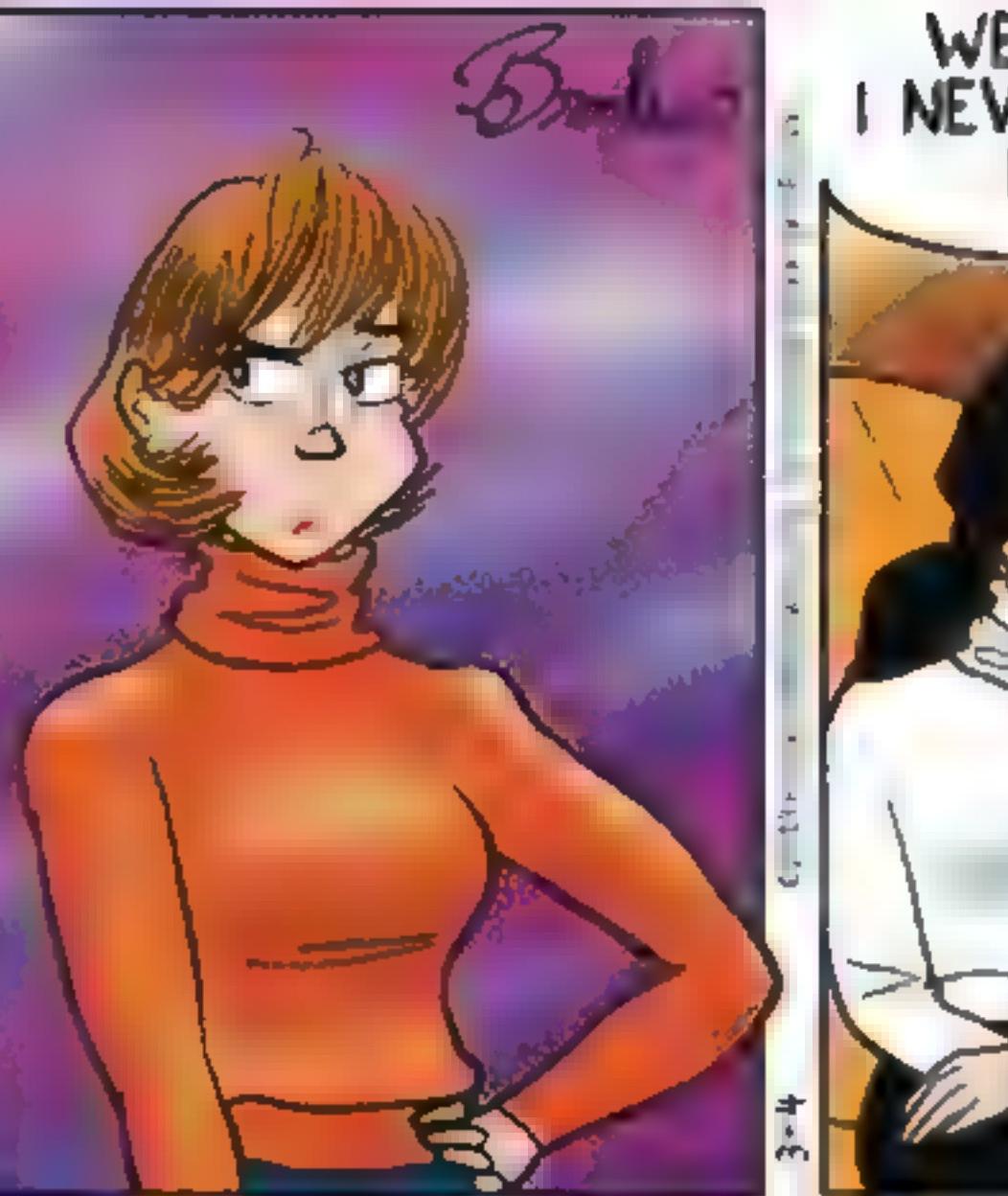
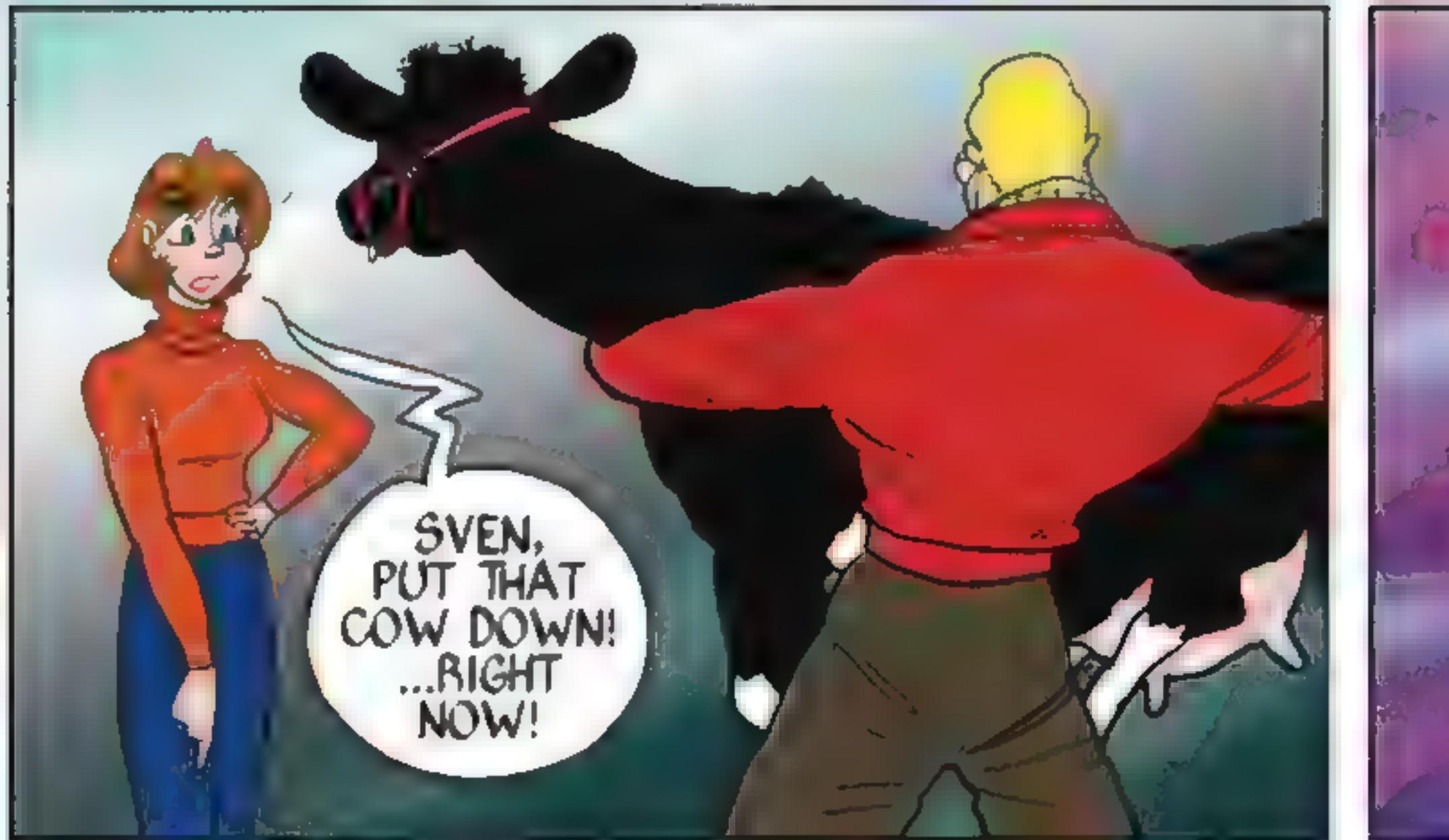




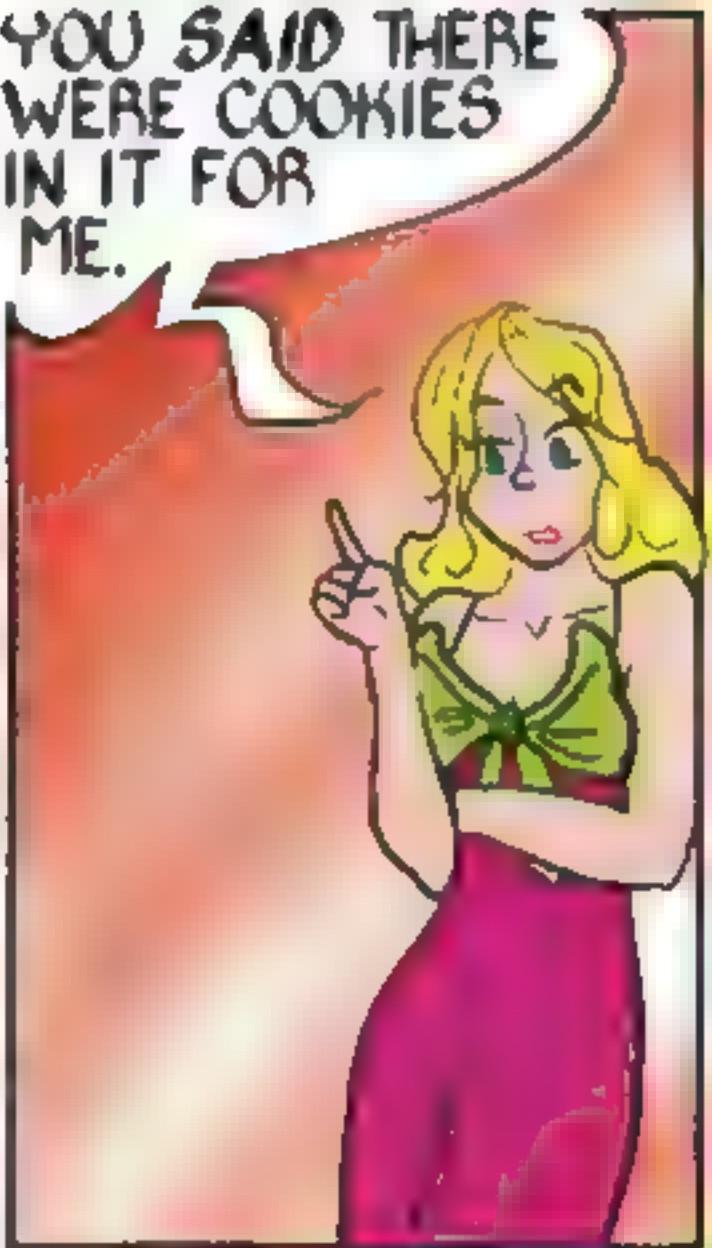
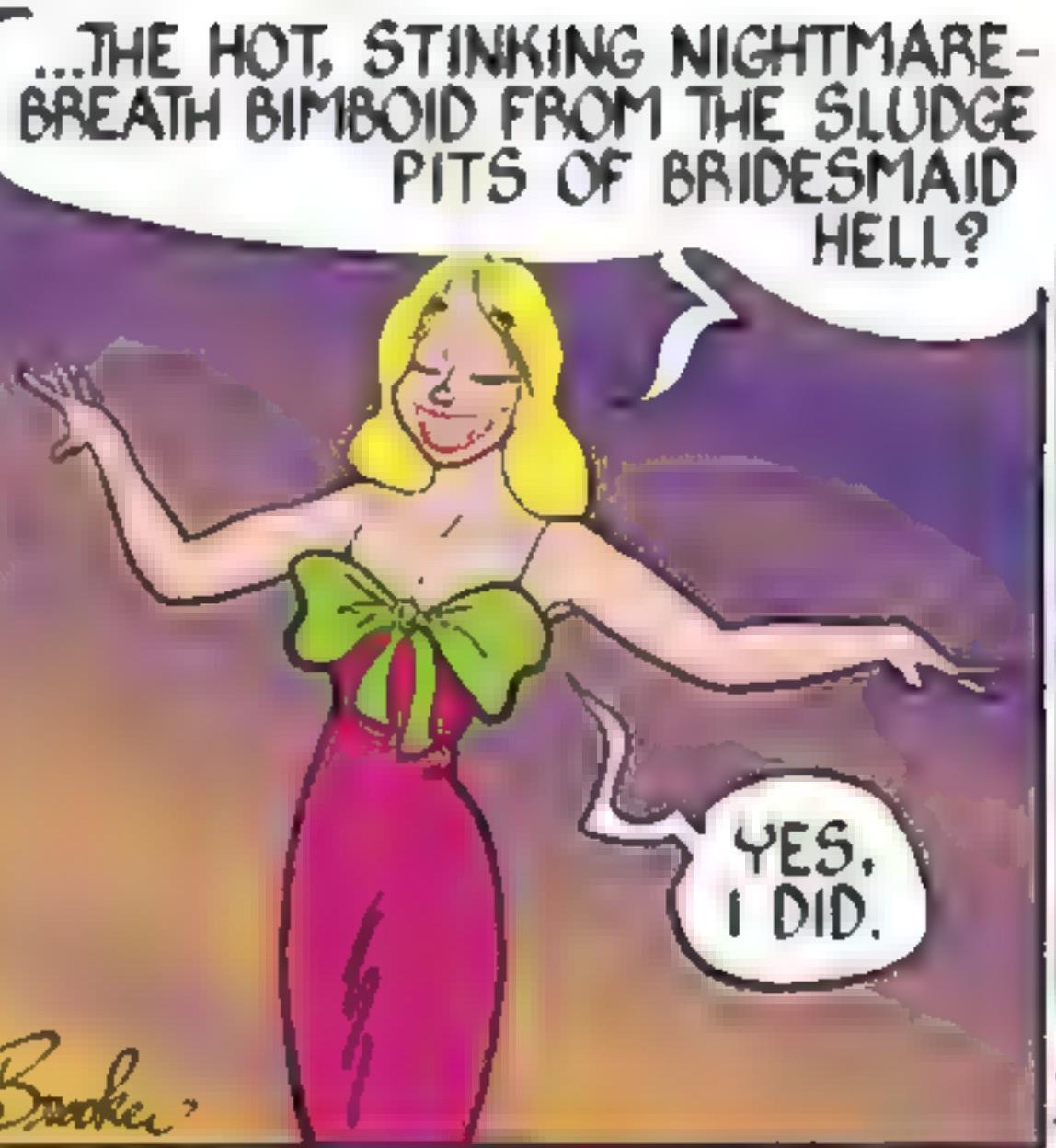
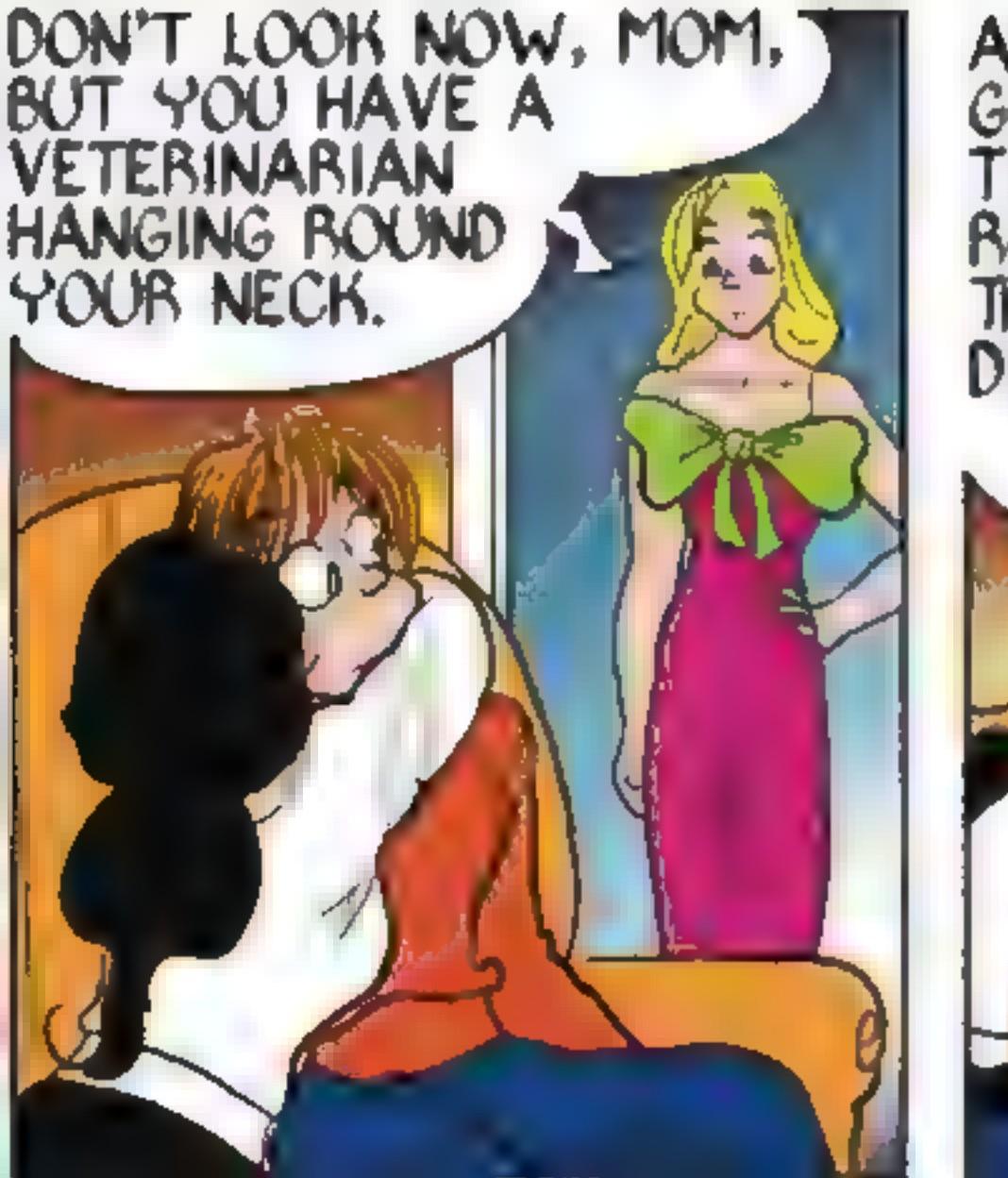












SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT:
YOU WILLINGLY RODE ALL THE
WAY UP FROM NEW YORK,
DRESSED
LIKE
THAT?



YOU GAVE ME THE
CHOICE: REMAIN WHERE
I WAS, WEARING THIS
BRIDESMAID HORROR
BEFORE A MARGIN-
ALLY SANE
WEDDING PARTY,
OR ABET YOU
IN CRIME AND
BE CONDEMNED
TO THE BIG
HOUSE AND
UNSPEAK-
ABLE, DAILY
STRIP-
SEARCHES.



FLEURIE CERTAINLY TAKES THESE MATTERS DEEPLY TO HEART.



SHE LOVES AND CARES FOR ANIMALS. IT'S WHY SHE BECAME A VET.

STILL, WITH A BIT MORE EXPERIENCE, A FEW MORE YEARS, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THESE ISSUES WITH GREATER EQUANIMITY. I MEAN, SOMEONE OUR AGE WOULD NEVER...



OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, THE MARKET WAS OUT OF MARSHMALLOWS FOR YOUR HOT COCOA.









WHAT KIND OF DRESS DO YOU
SUGGEST?

FOR SVEN?
SOMETHING THREE
OUNCES OR
UNDER.

YEAH,
BUT WHAT KIND
OF DRESS?

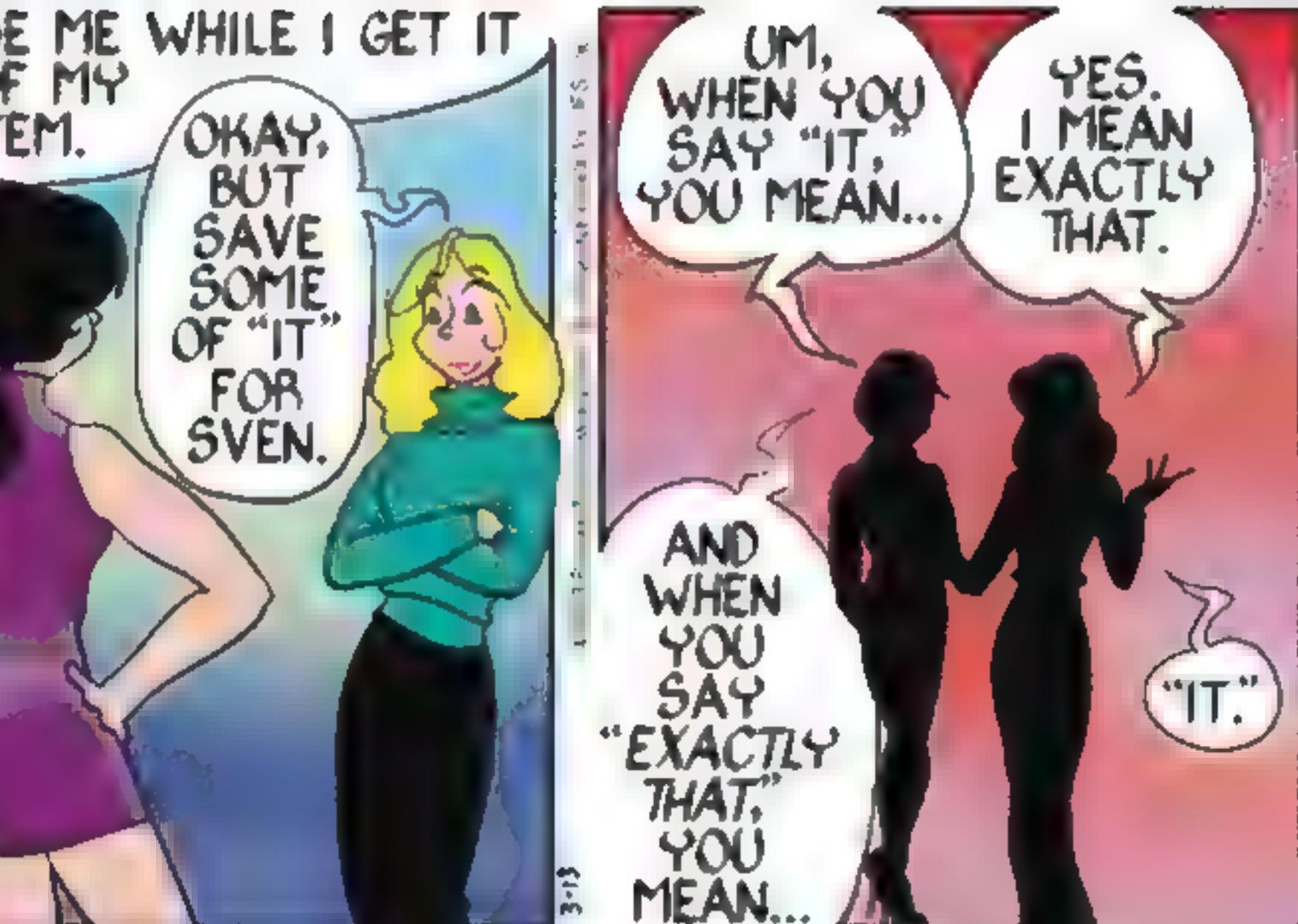
THREE
OUNCES OR
UNDER.

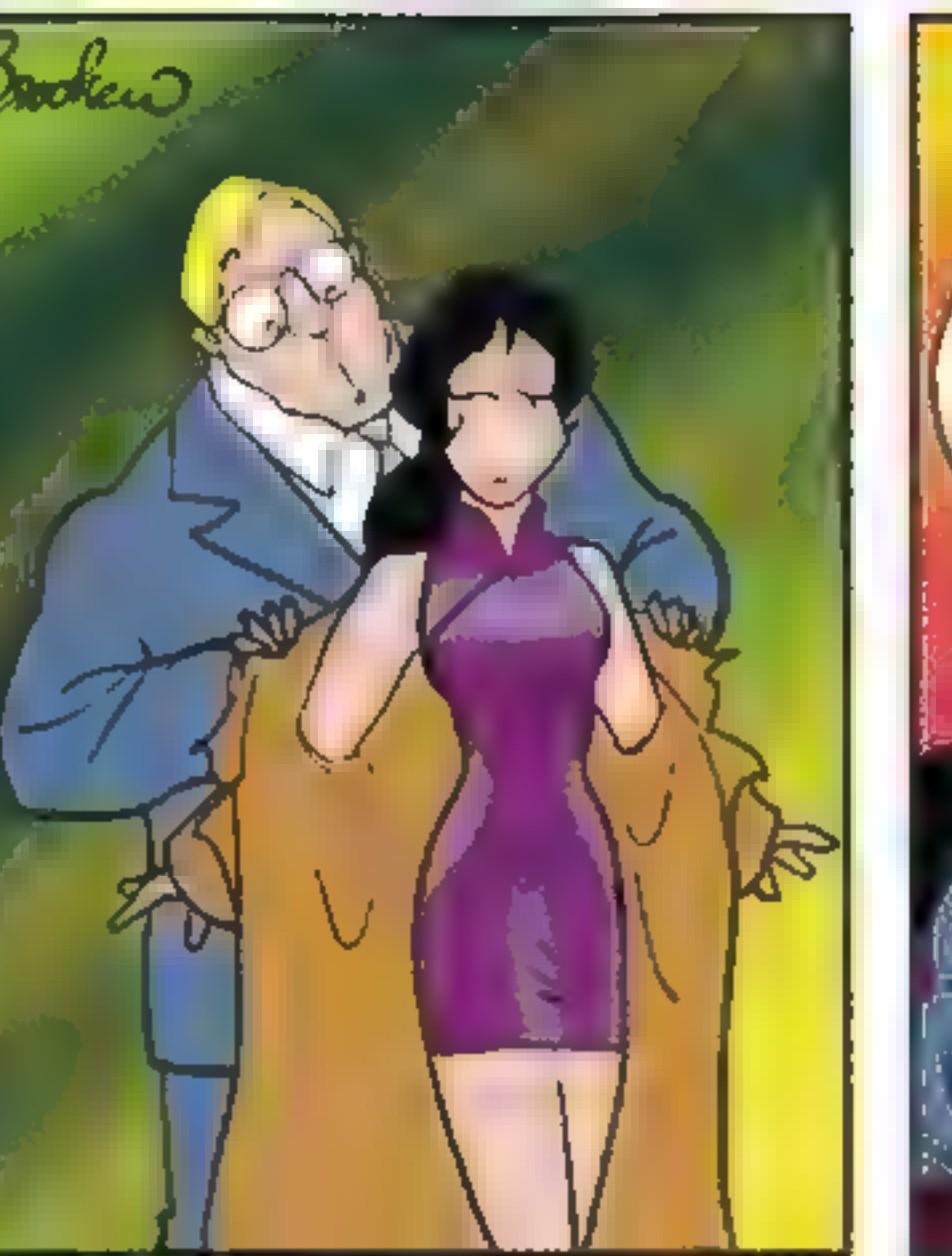
I MEAN,
WHAT DOES
IT LOOK LIKE?

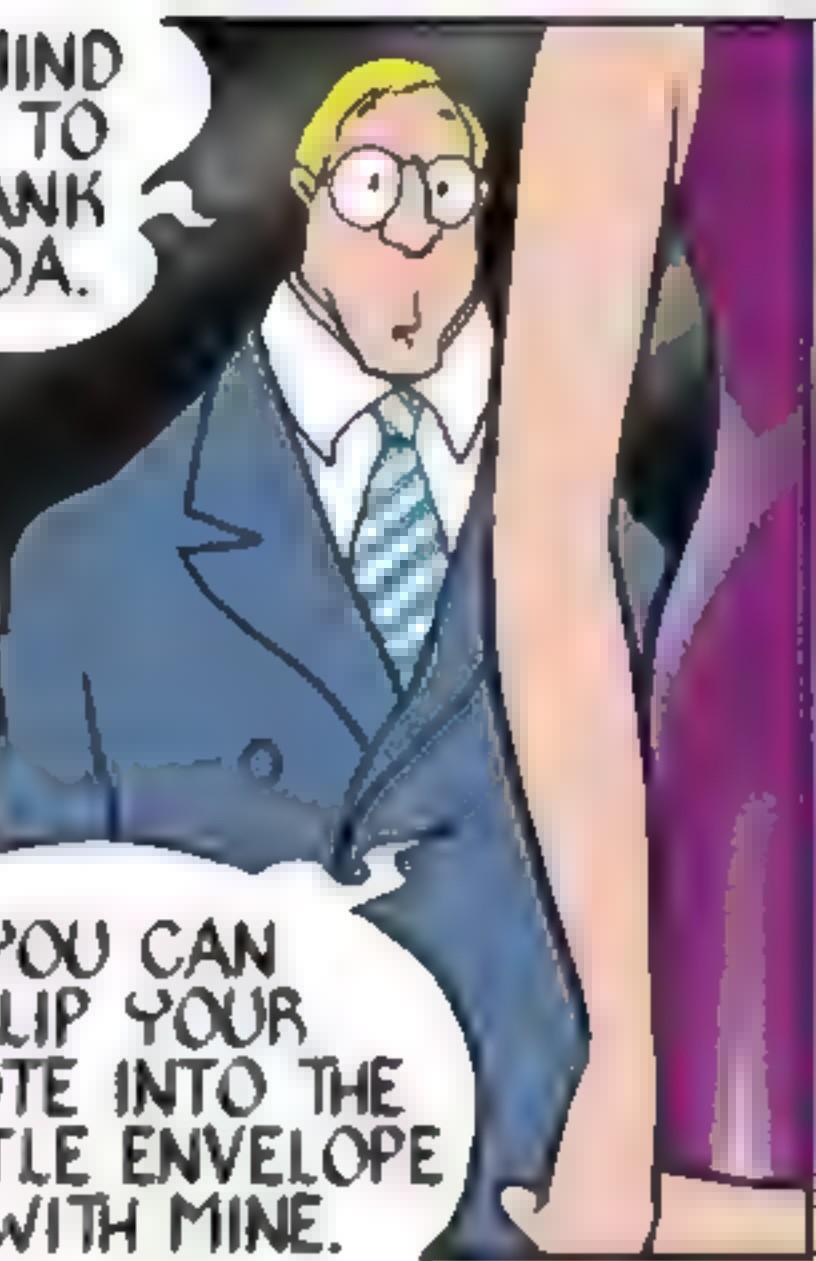


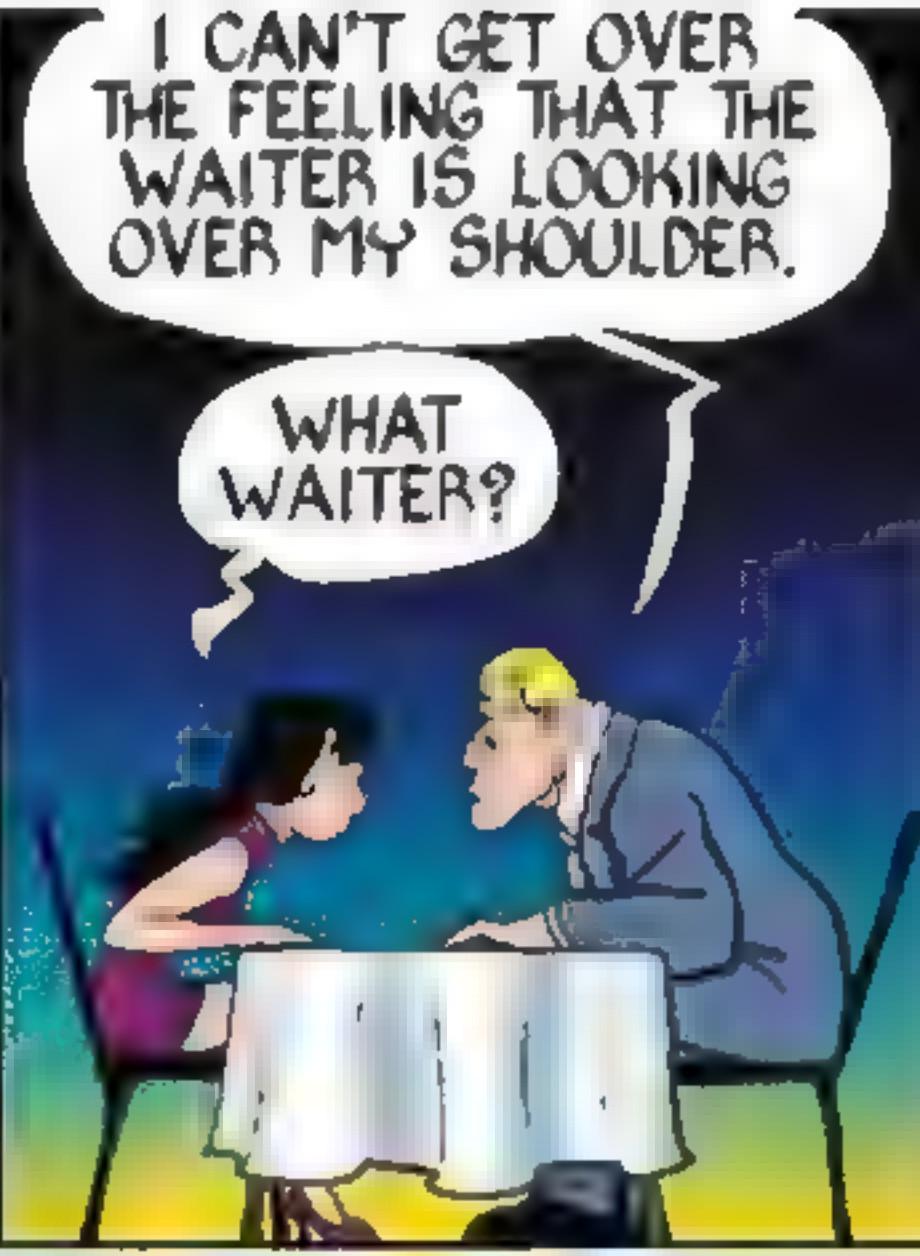
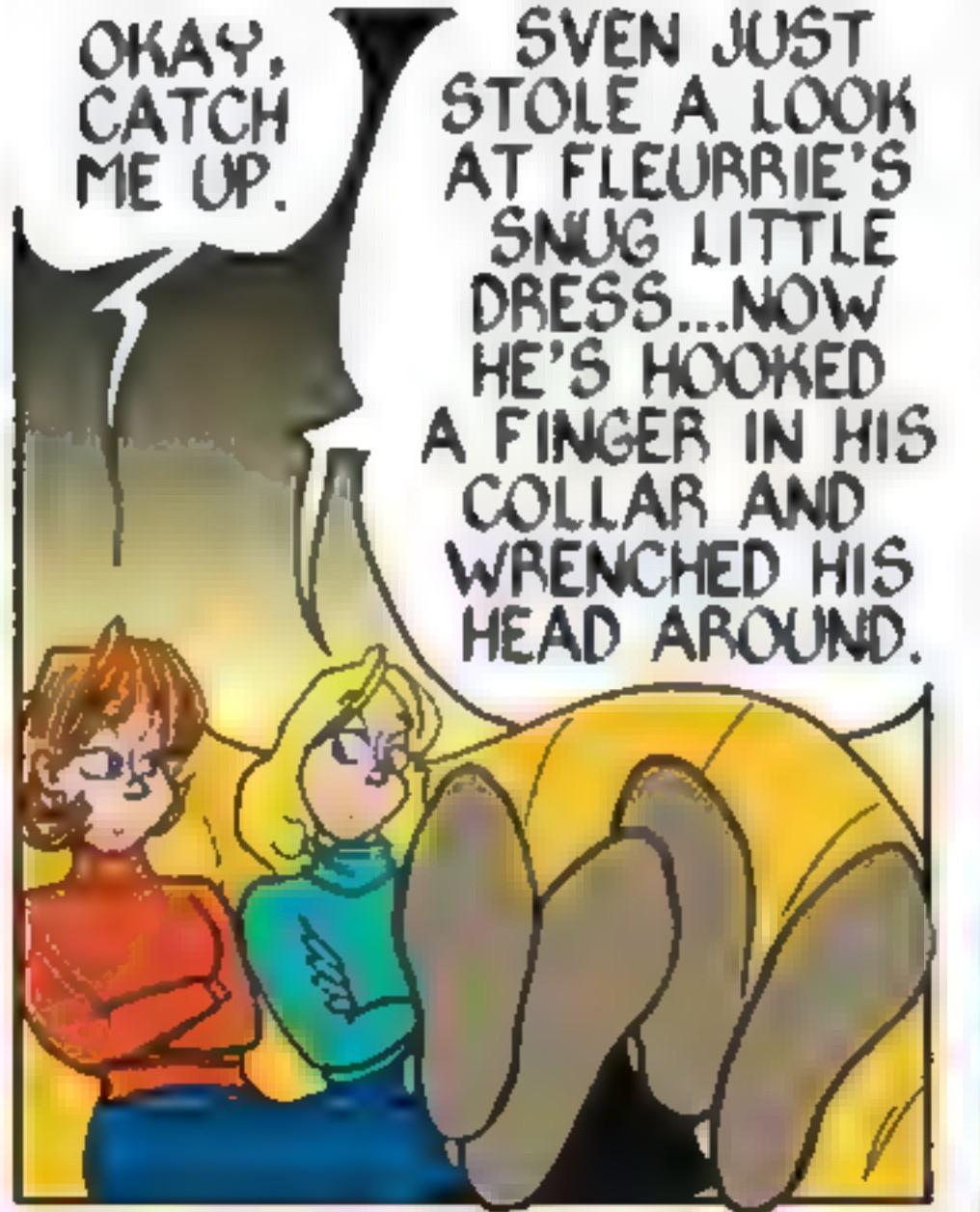
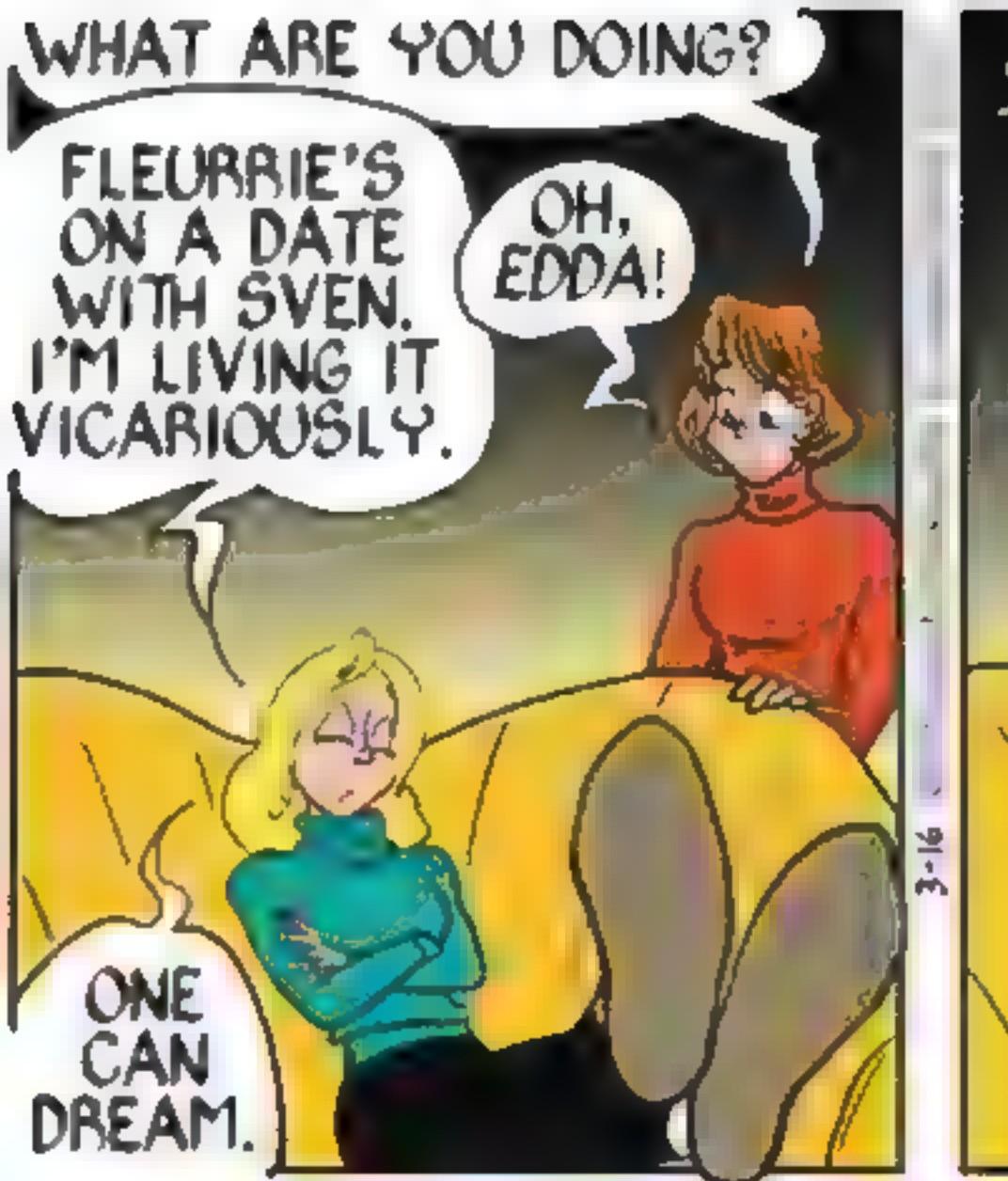
THREE
OUNCES
OR
UNDER.

Brooks

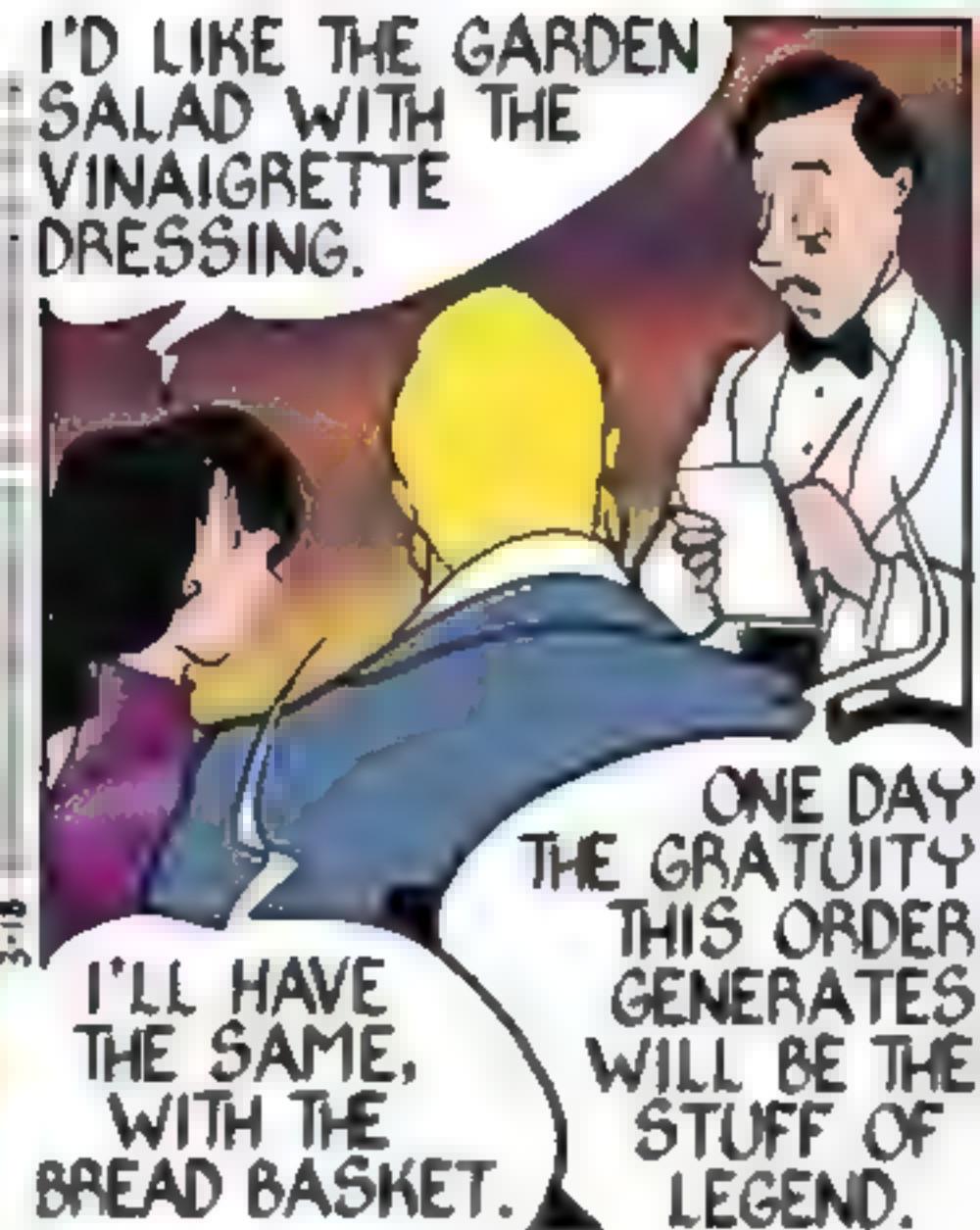
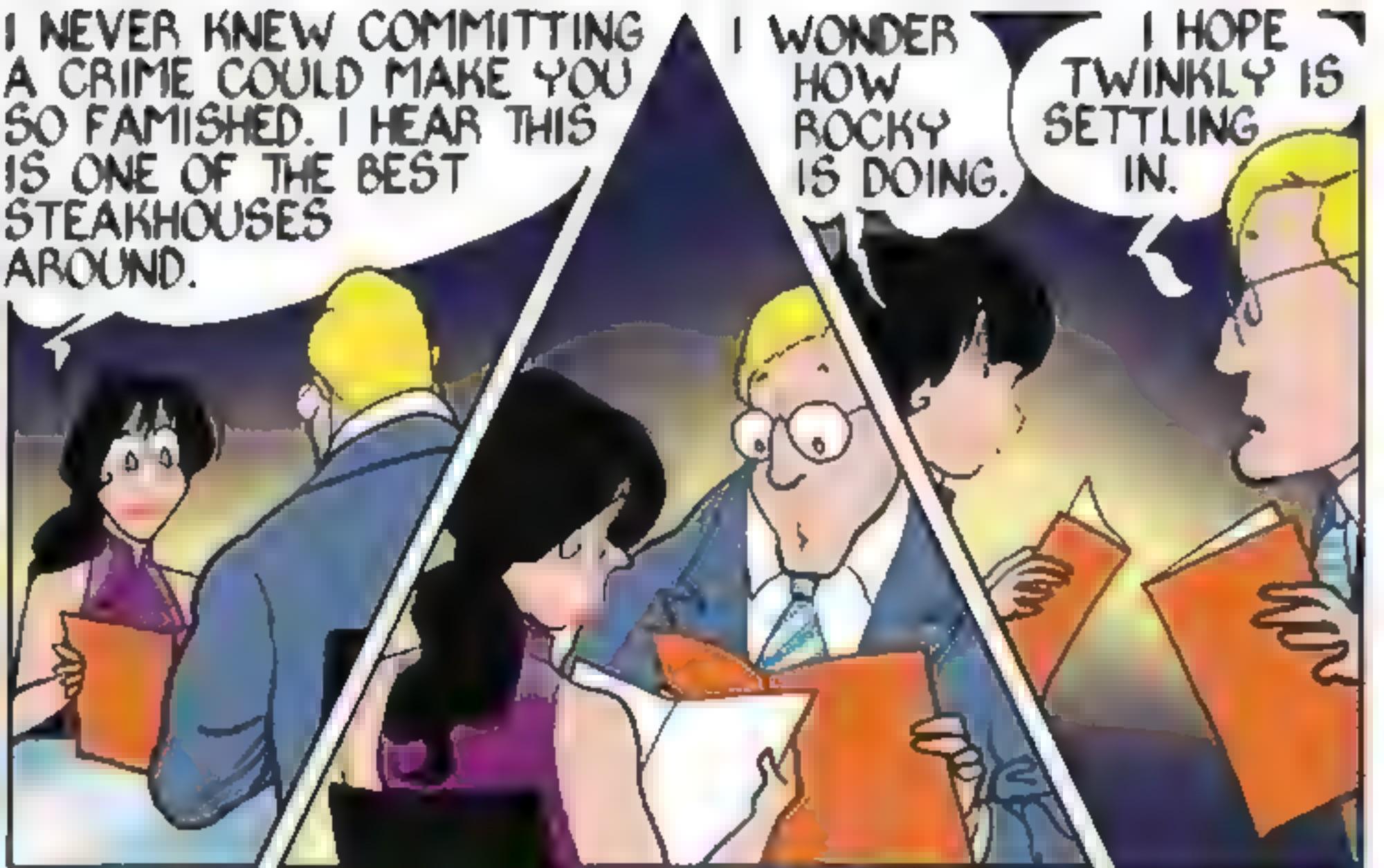


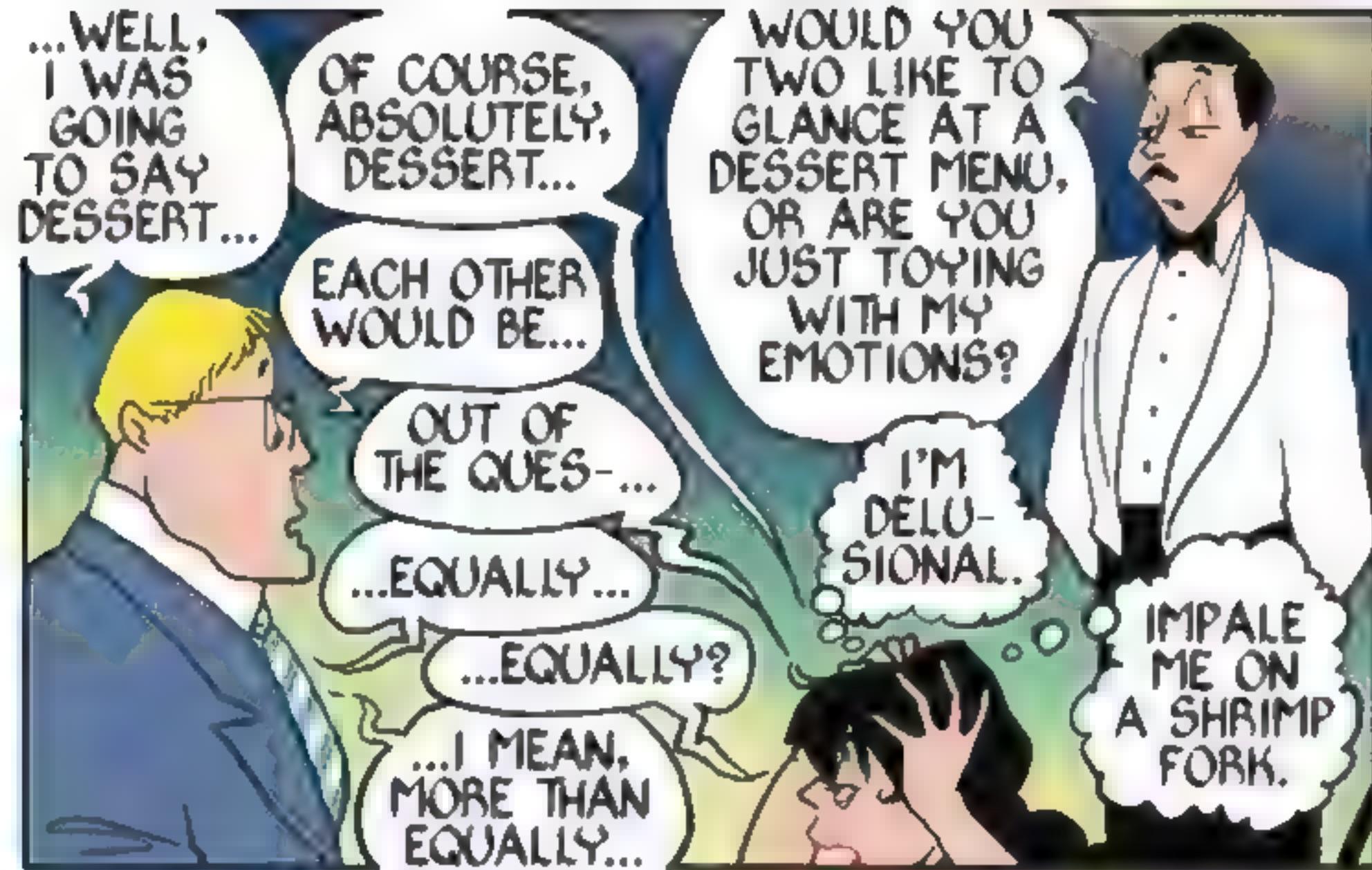
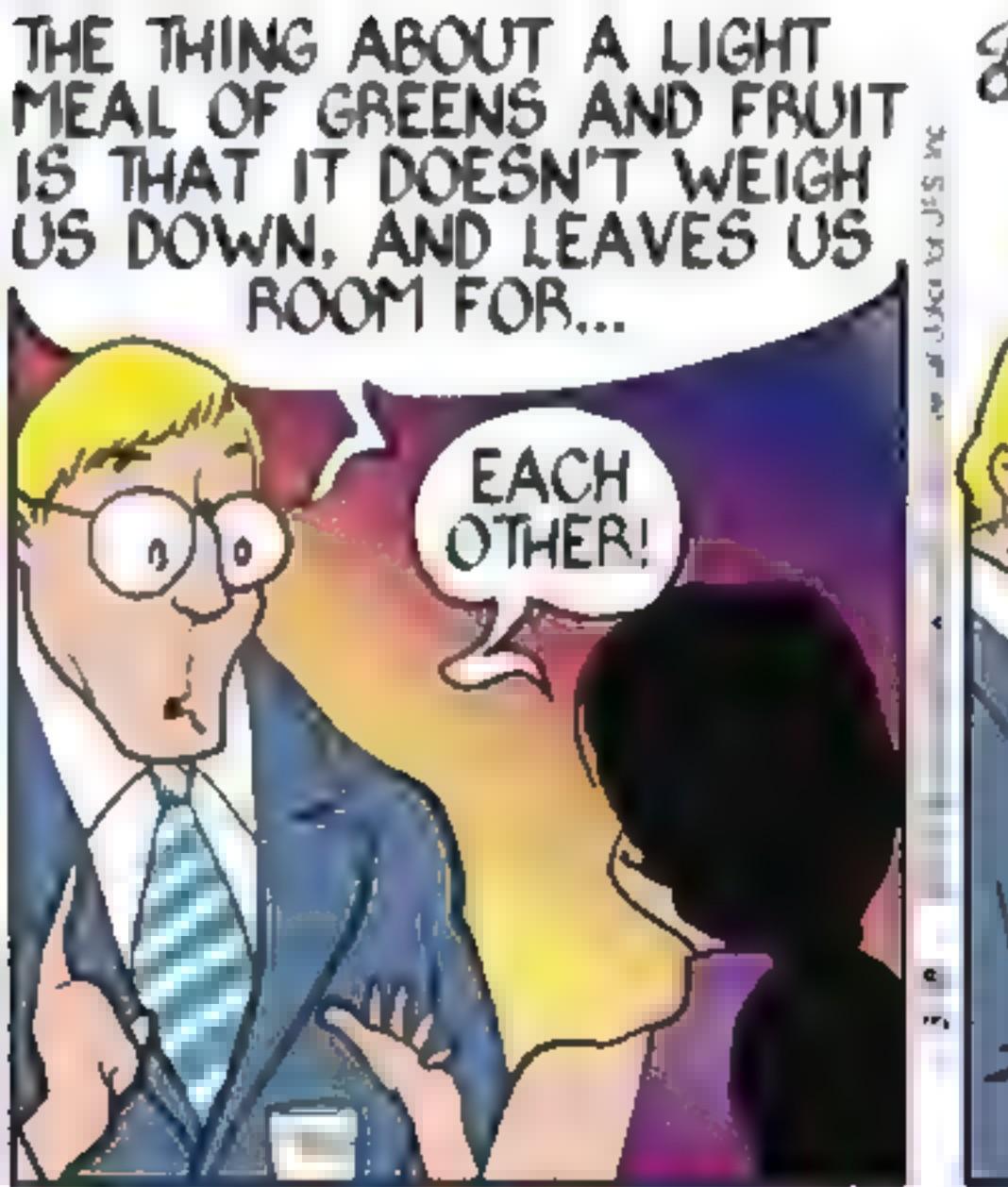












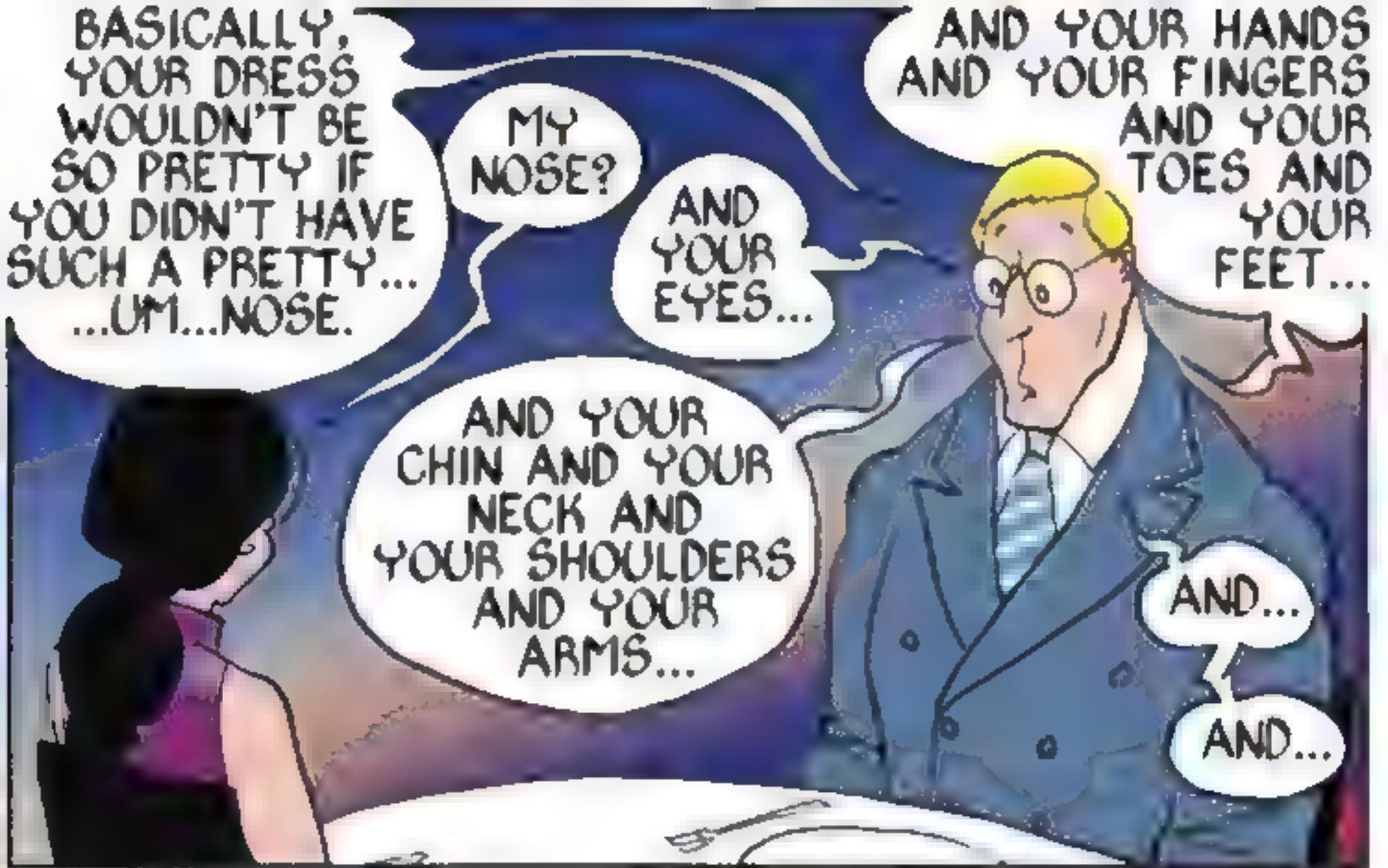


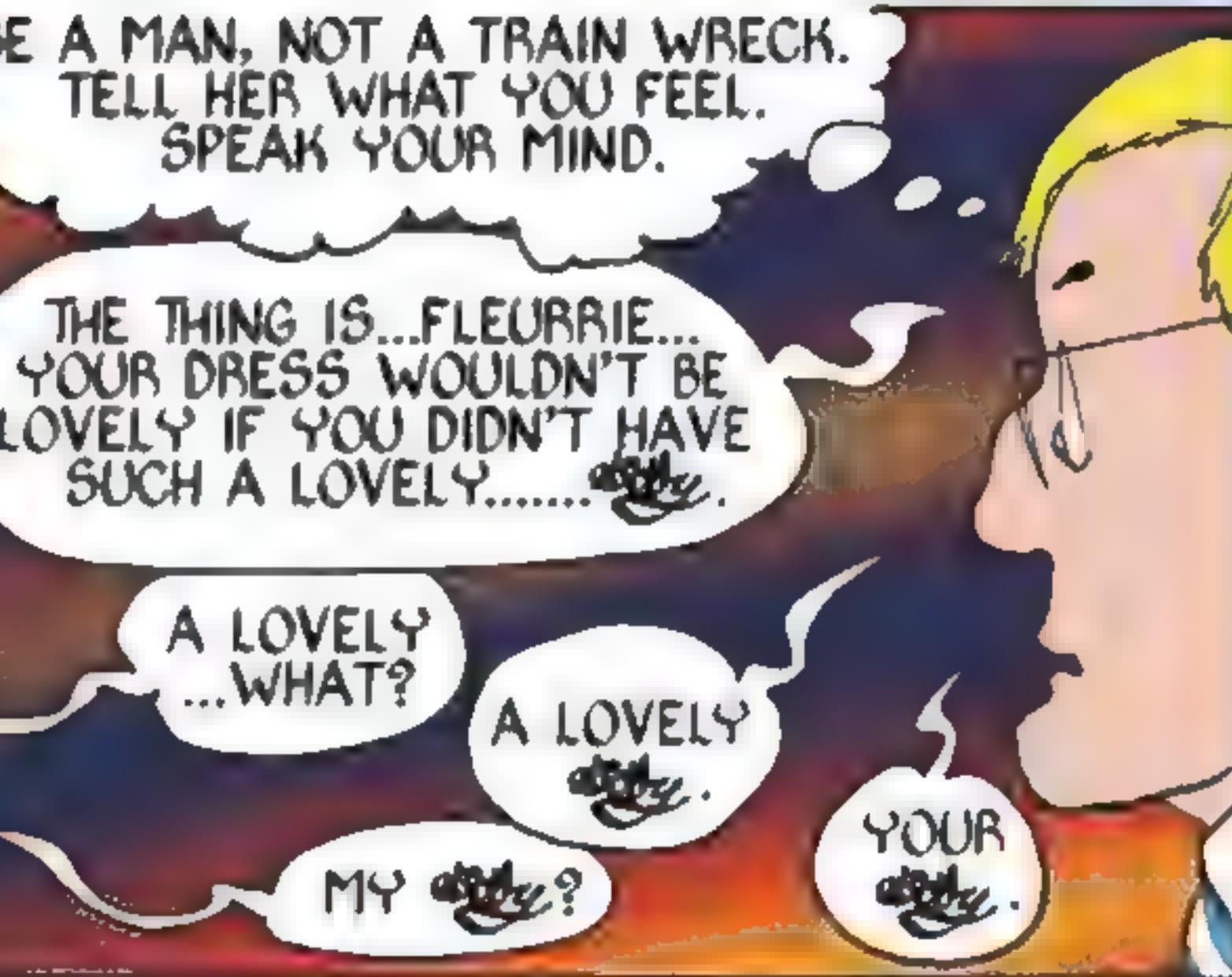
GIVEN THAT I AM NO LONGER
IN YOUR EMPLOY, I FEEL I
HAVE LEAVE TO TELL YOU
THAT YOUR DRESS IS VERY
LOVELY. BUT IT ISN'T
LOVELY ON ITS OWN.
IT WOULD NOT BE SO
LOVELY IF YOU DID
NOT ALSO HAVE A
VERY LOVELY...

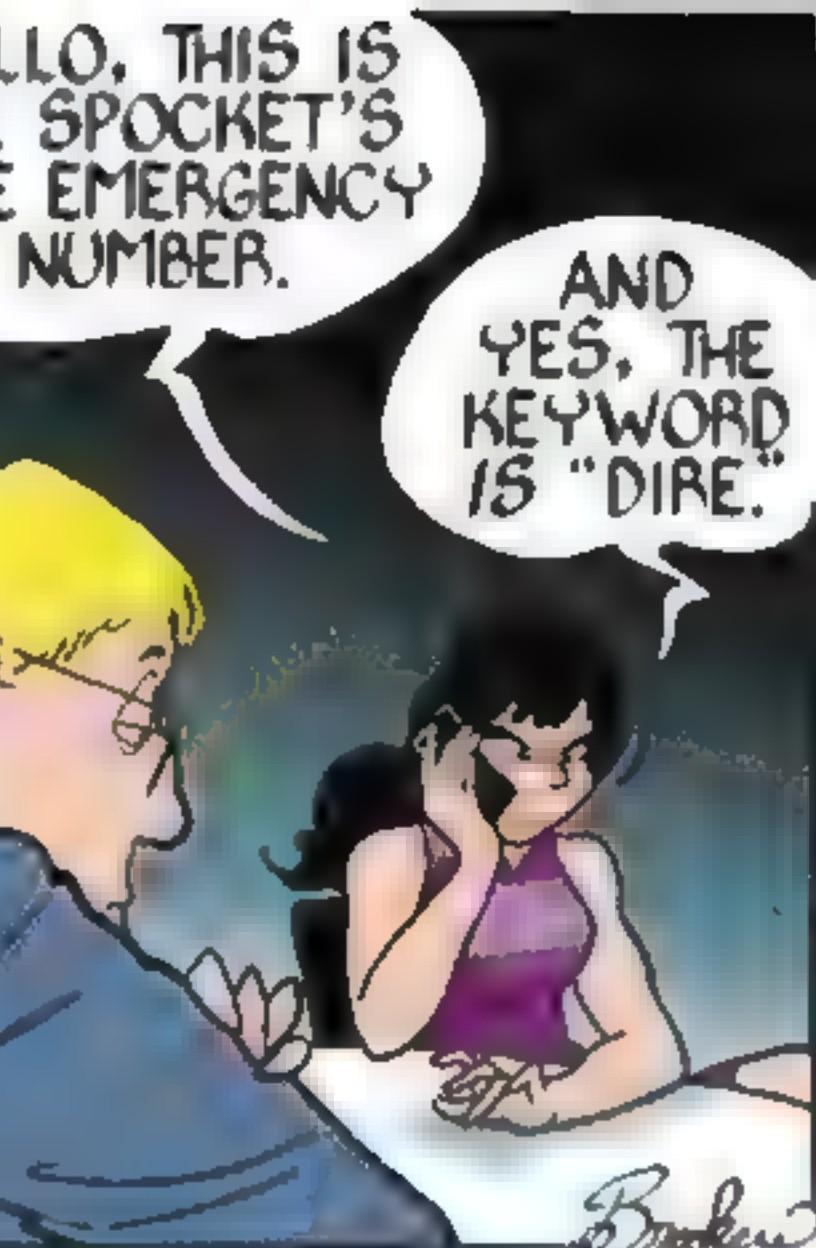
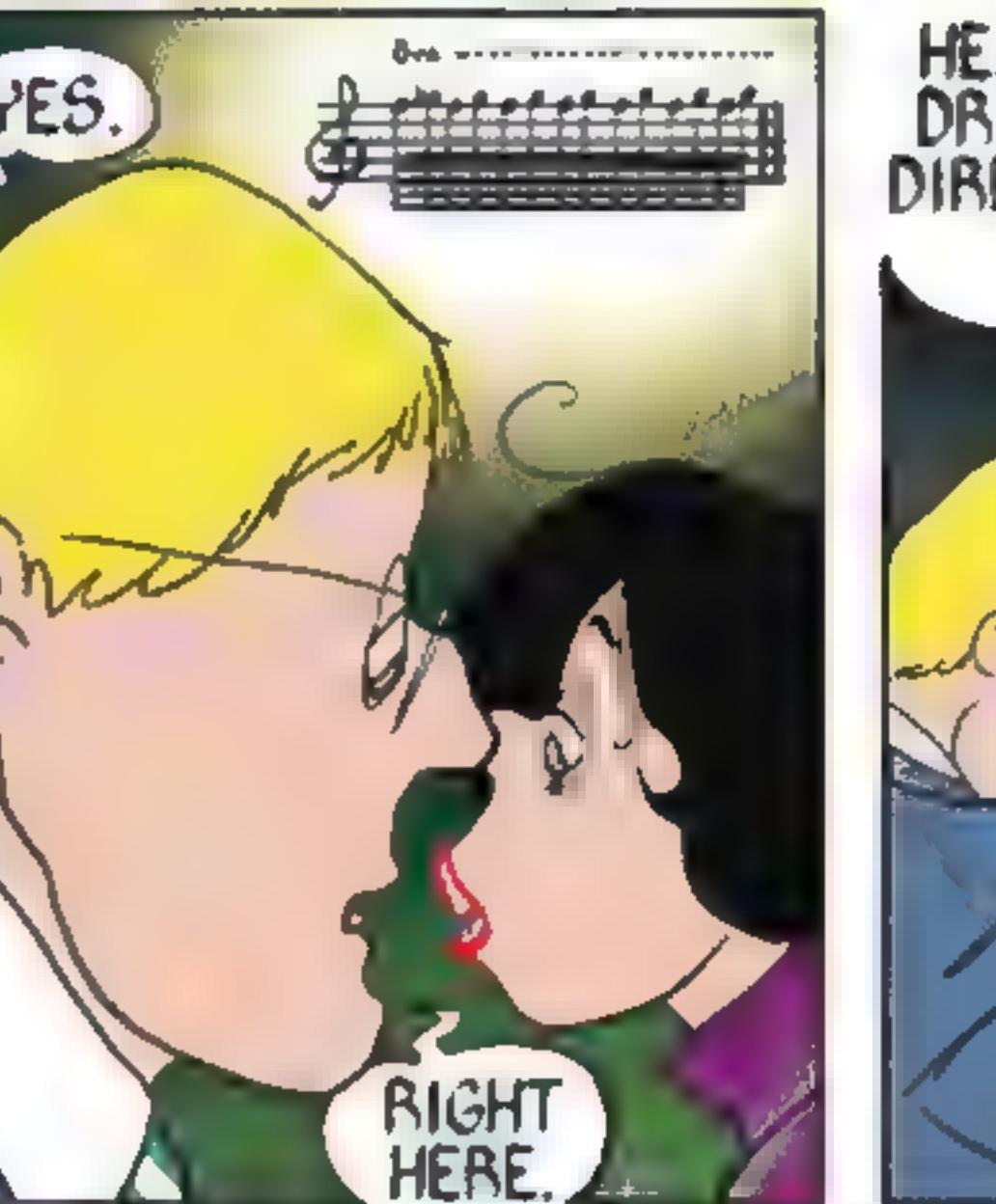
Brokers

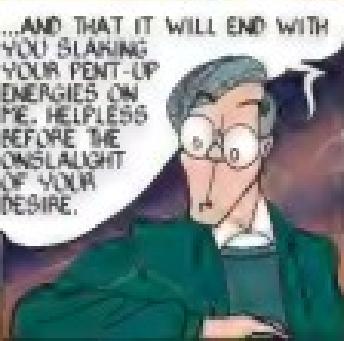
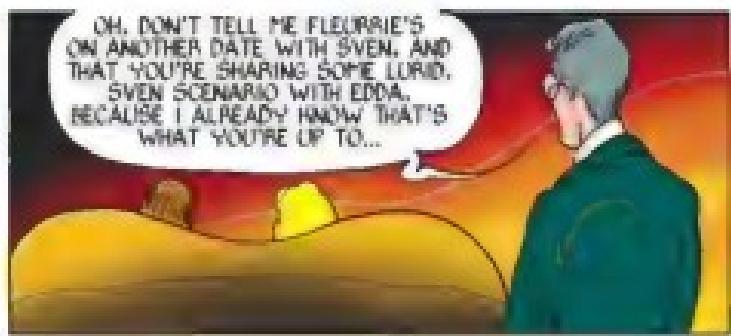
...UM...
A LOVELY
WHAT?

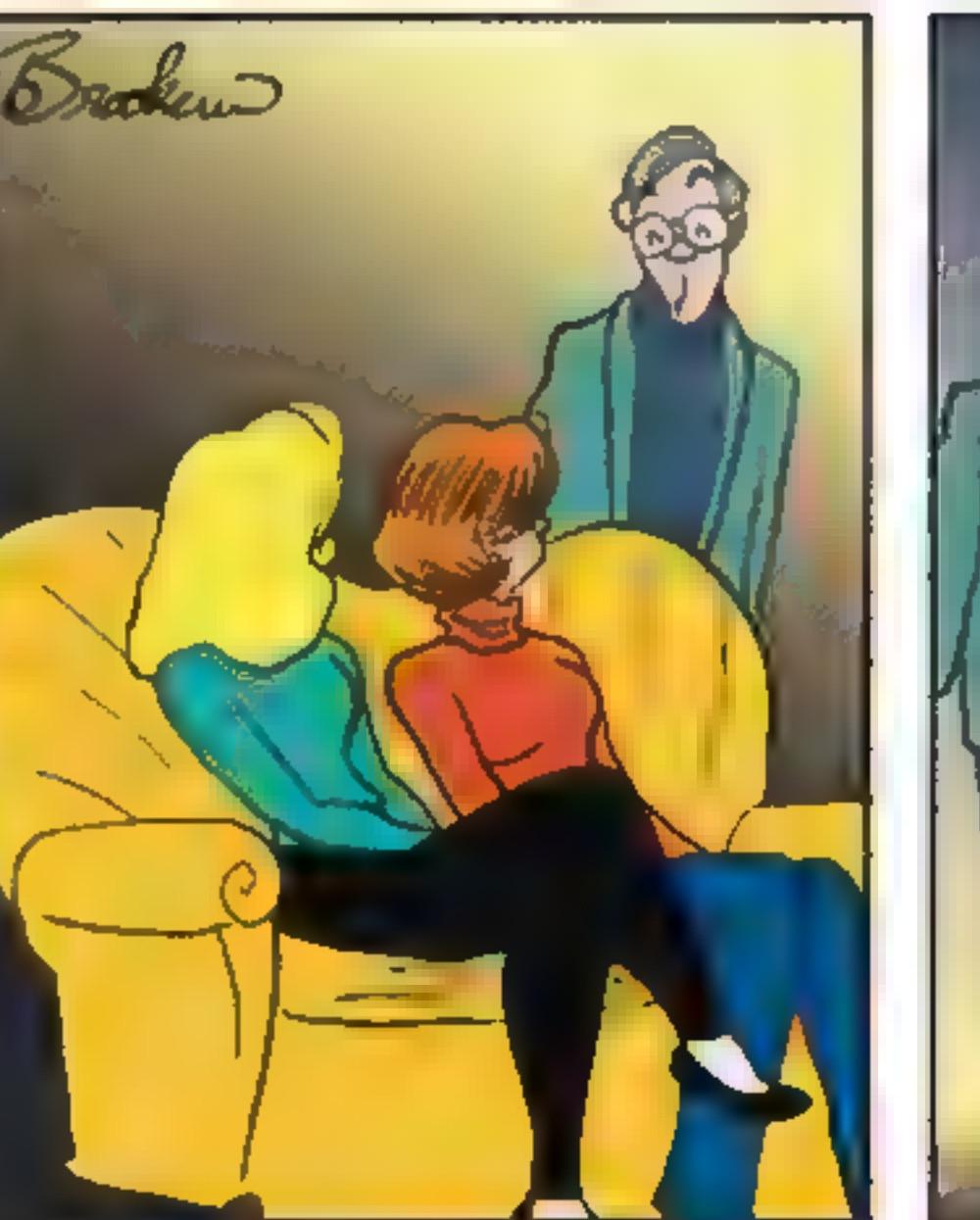
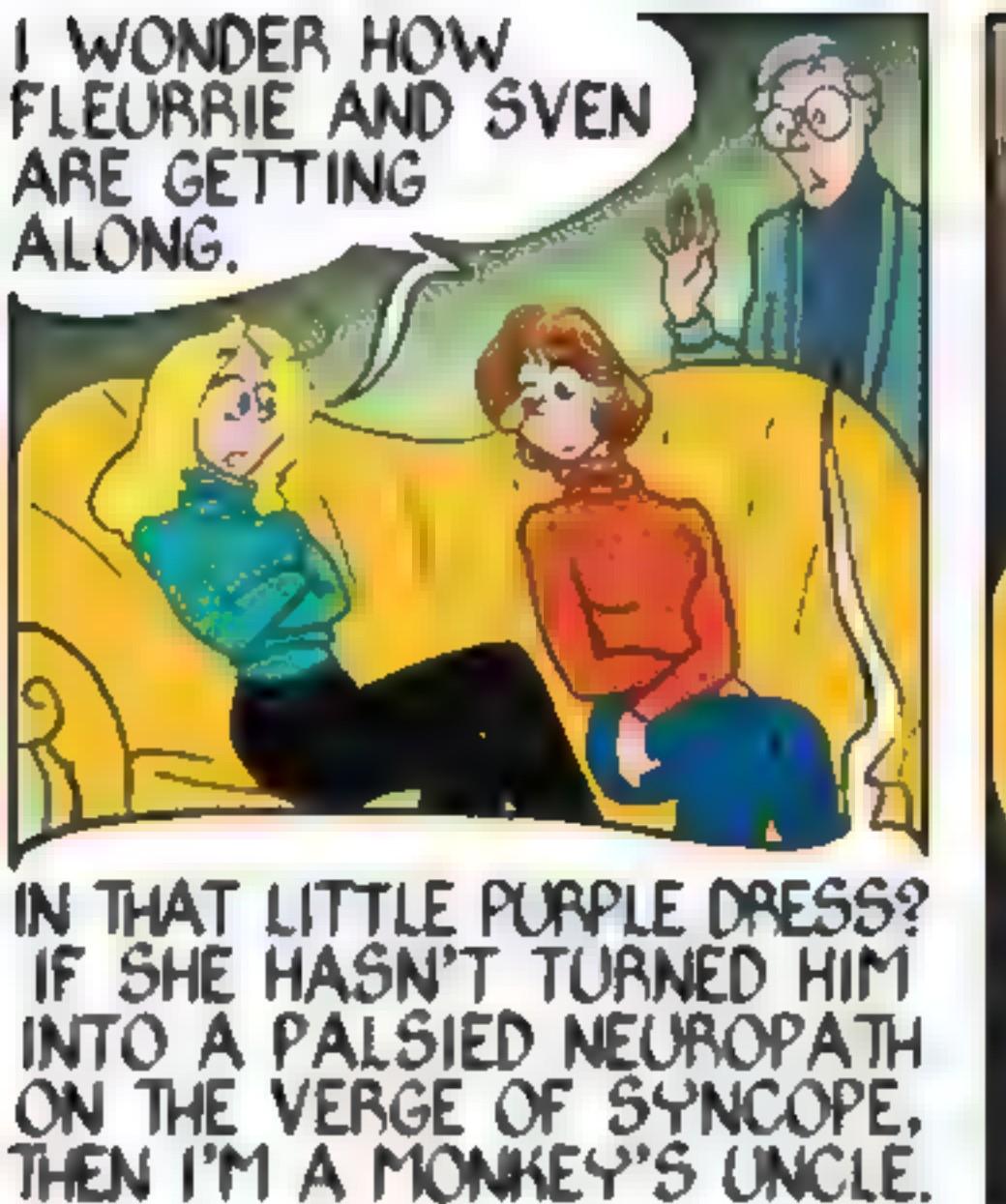


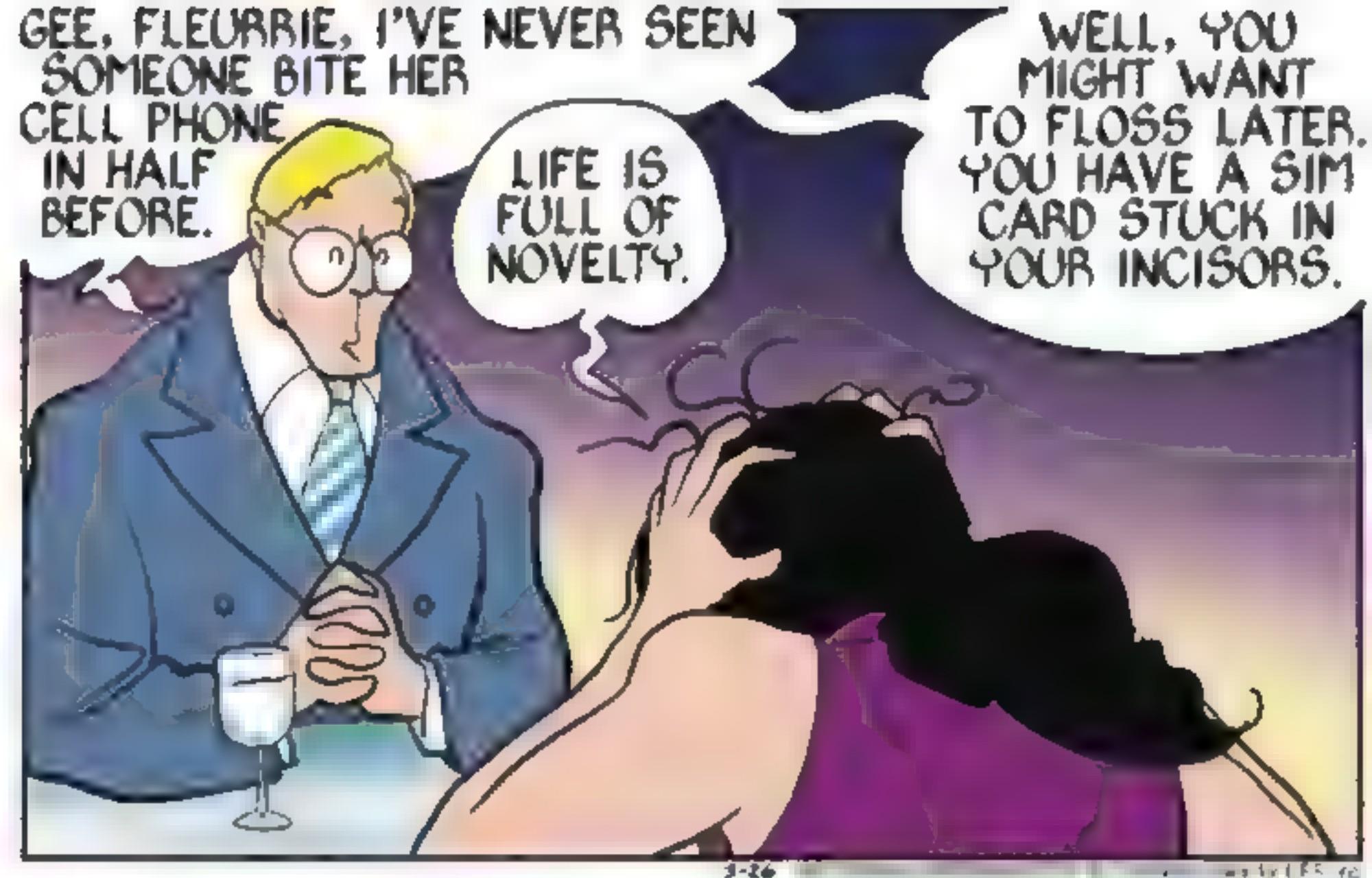
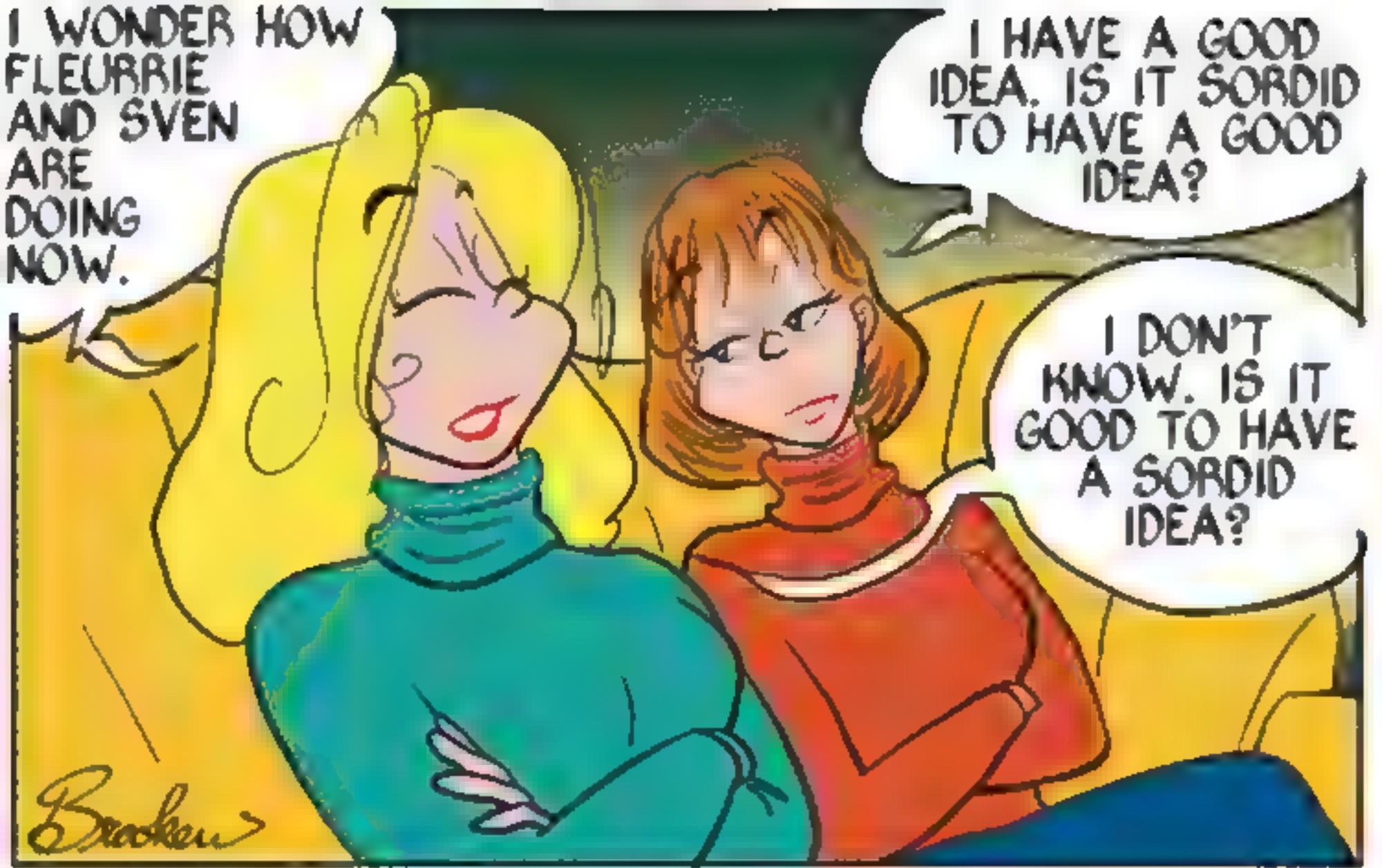


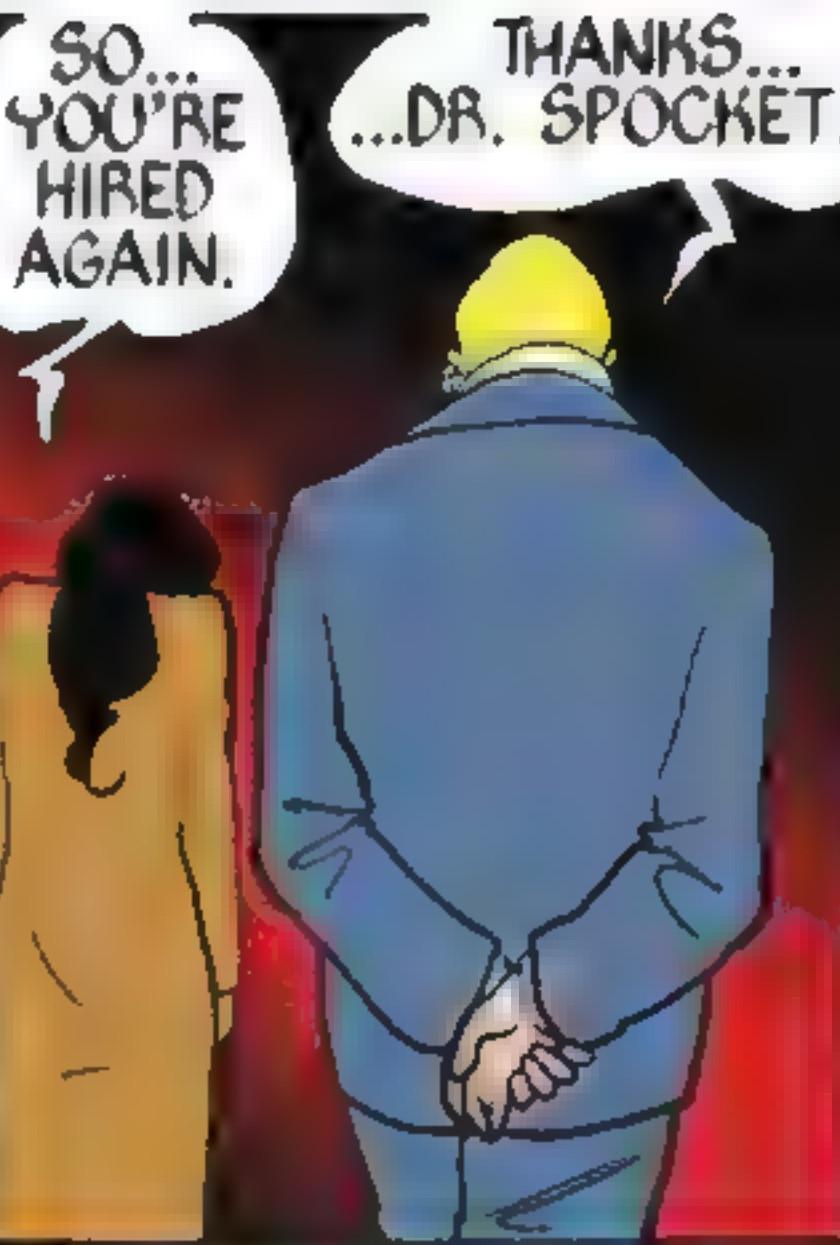






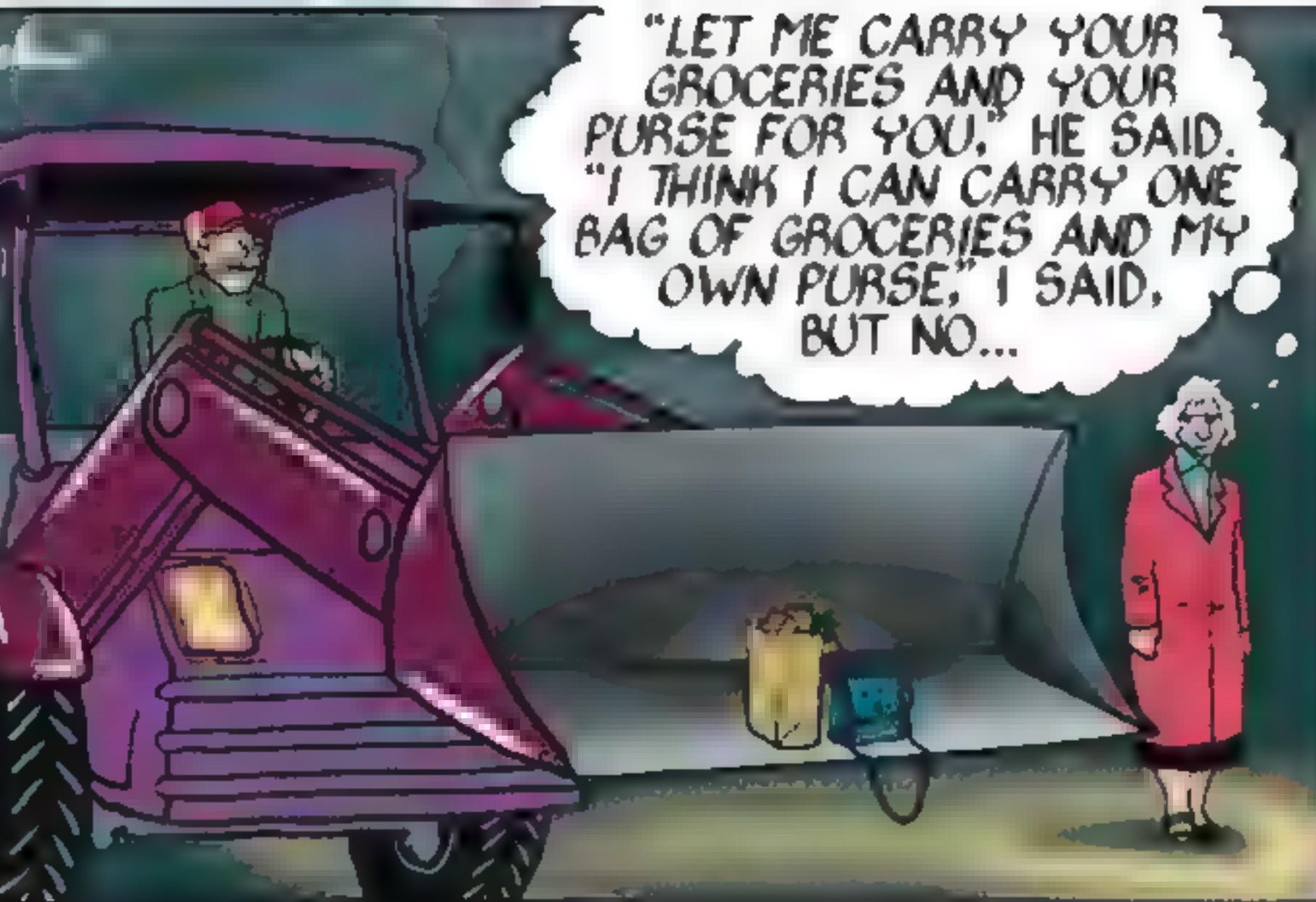


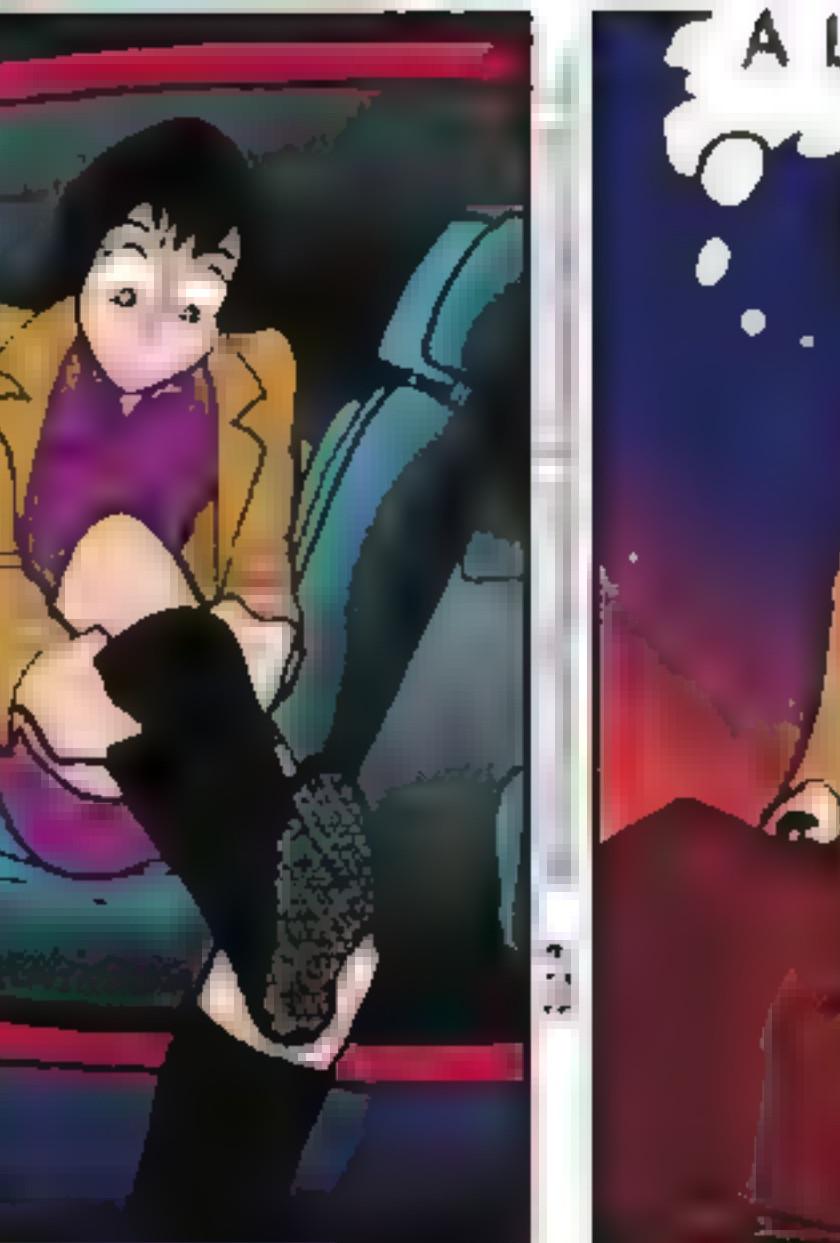
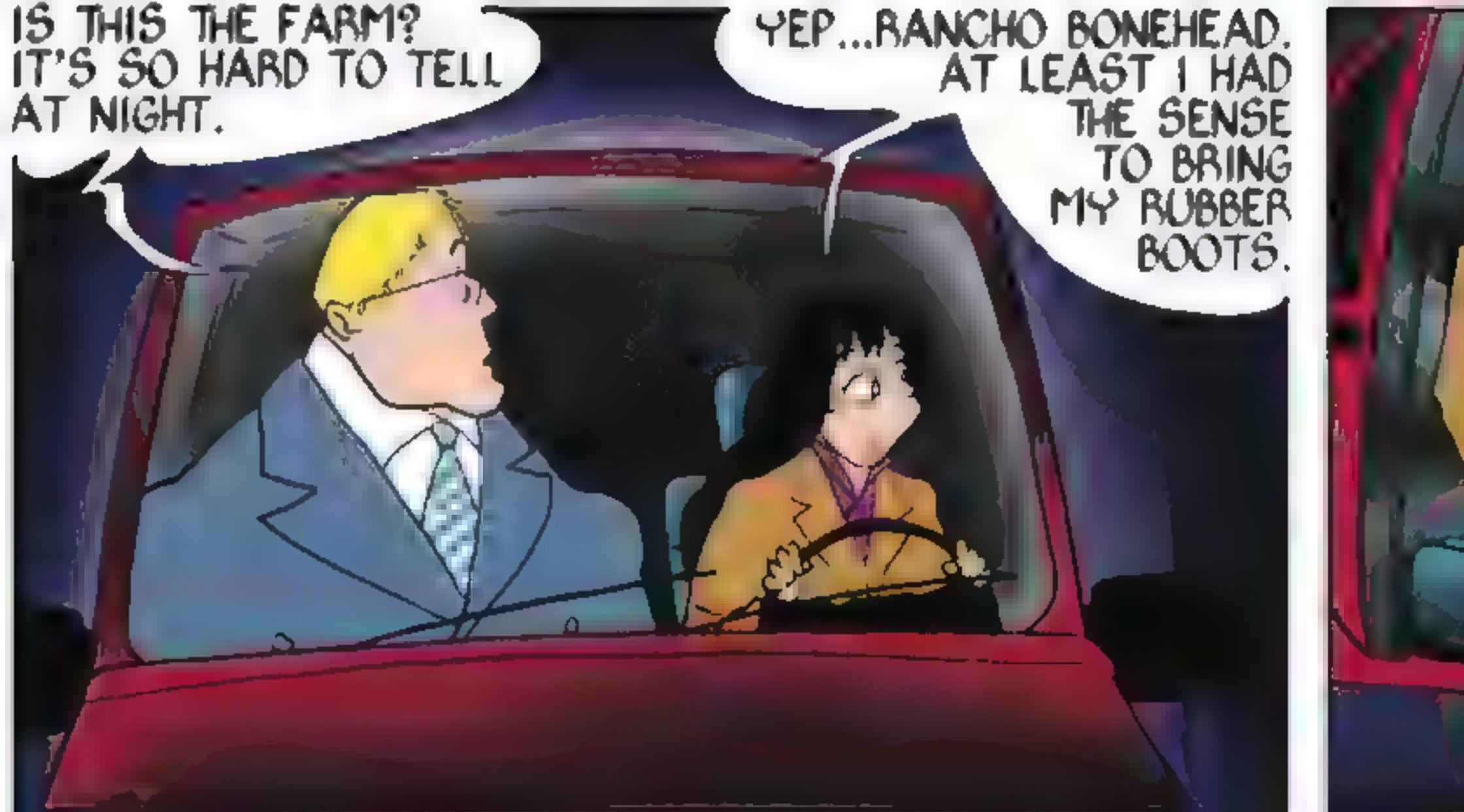


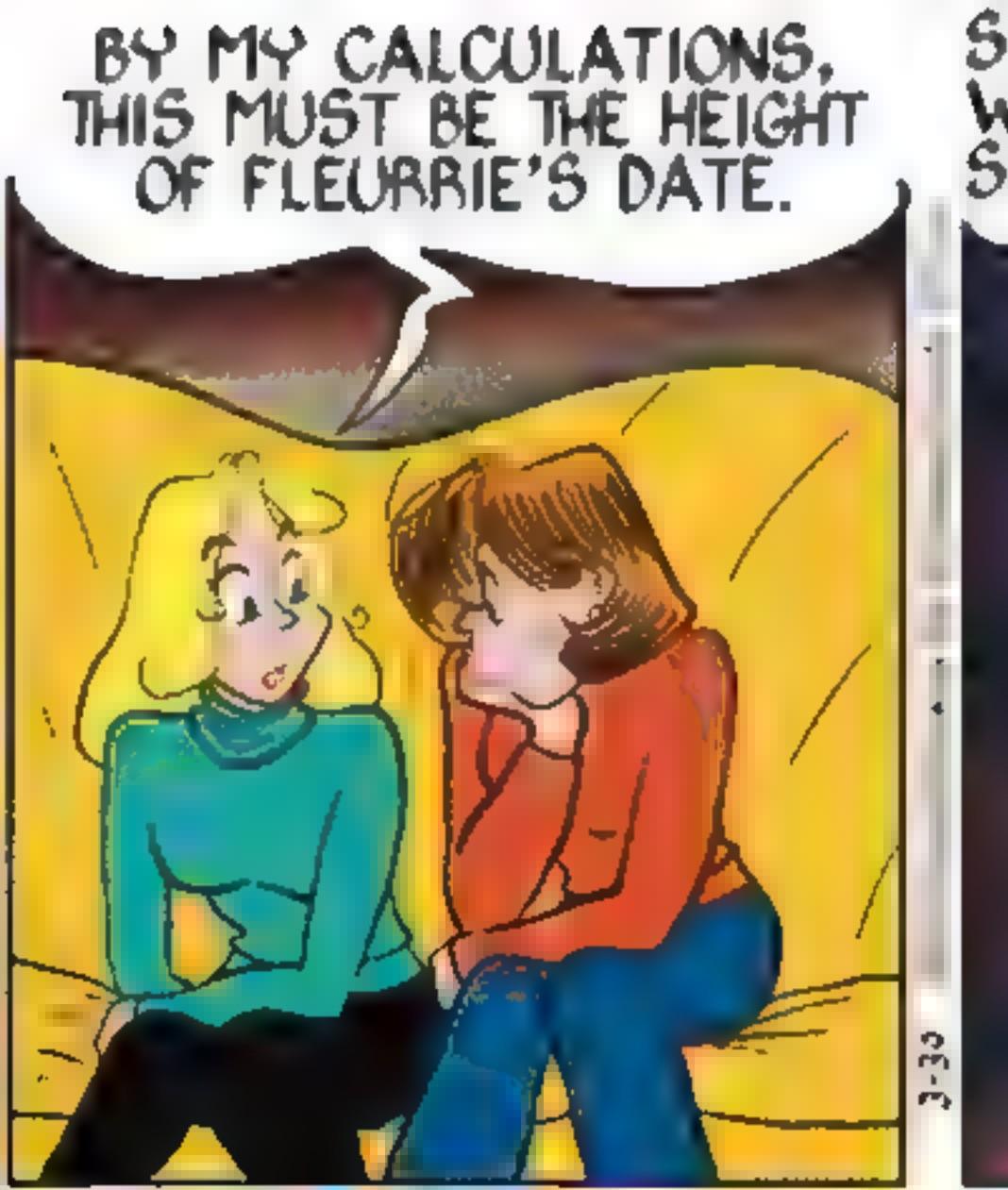




BUT THE FARMER
HAS A BRAND NEW
FRONT LOADER,
AND HE WANTS
TO TRY TO SCOOP
HER UP AND MOVE
HER TO THE BARN.
THERE'S NOTHING
A MAN WITH
A NEW
FRONT
LOADER
WON'T
TRY TO
LUG
AROUND.







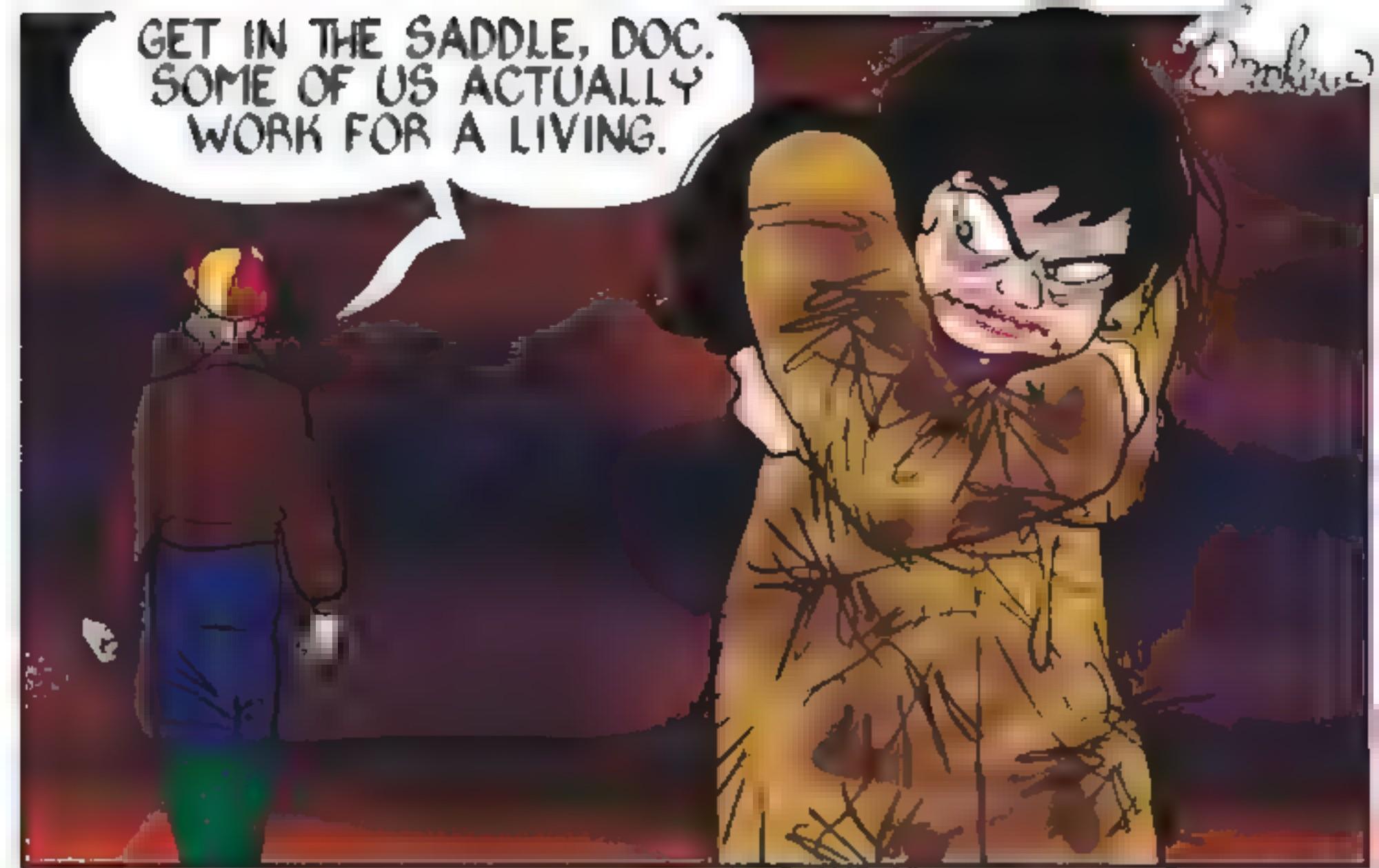


Brooks





WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED
ADMIRING YOUR FINERY,
THERE'S A COW OVER HERE
WAITING FOR YOU.



GET IN THE SADDLE, DOC.
SOME OF US ACTUALLY
WORK FOR A LIVING.



OH, GOOD...
A RUINED DATE,
AN IMMOVABLE
COW...



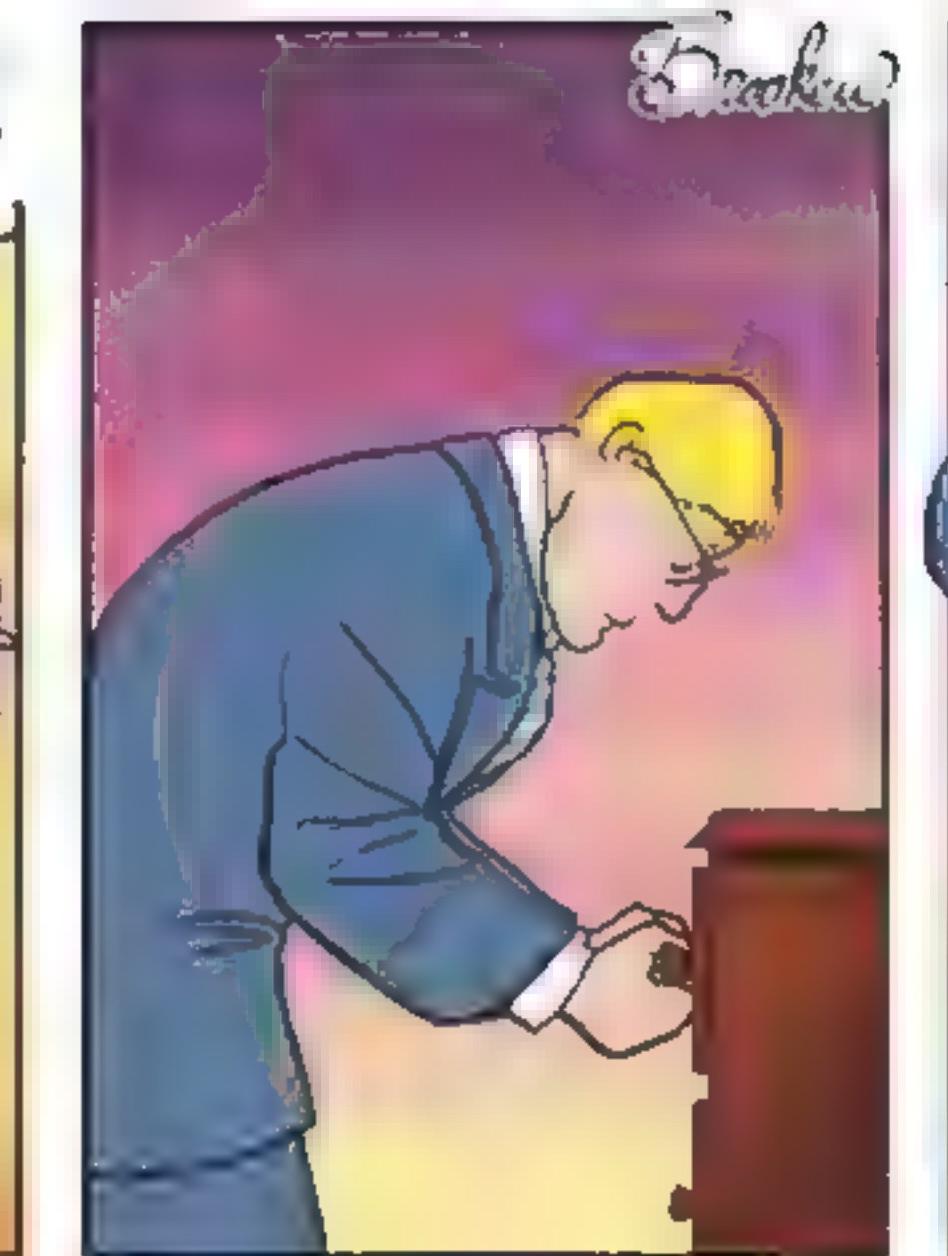
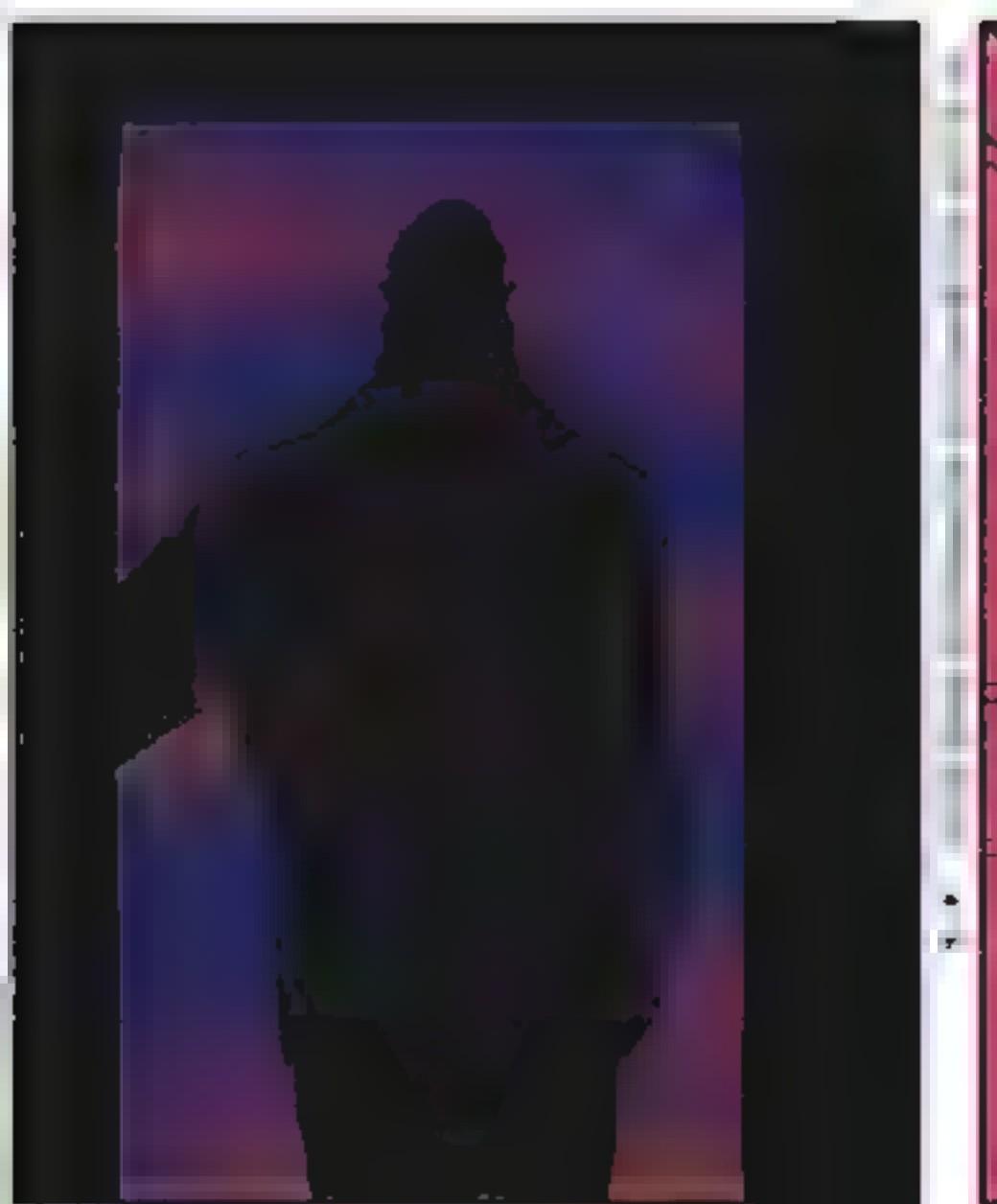
AND NOW, HYPOTHERMIA ALL
THE WAY UP TO MY WAISTBAND.
...IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER
THAN THIS.

SO, DOC...
...YOU, OH...
...WORK OUT?

HOLD ON...
...IT JUST
GOT BETTER.

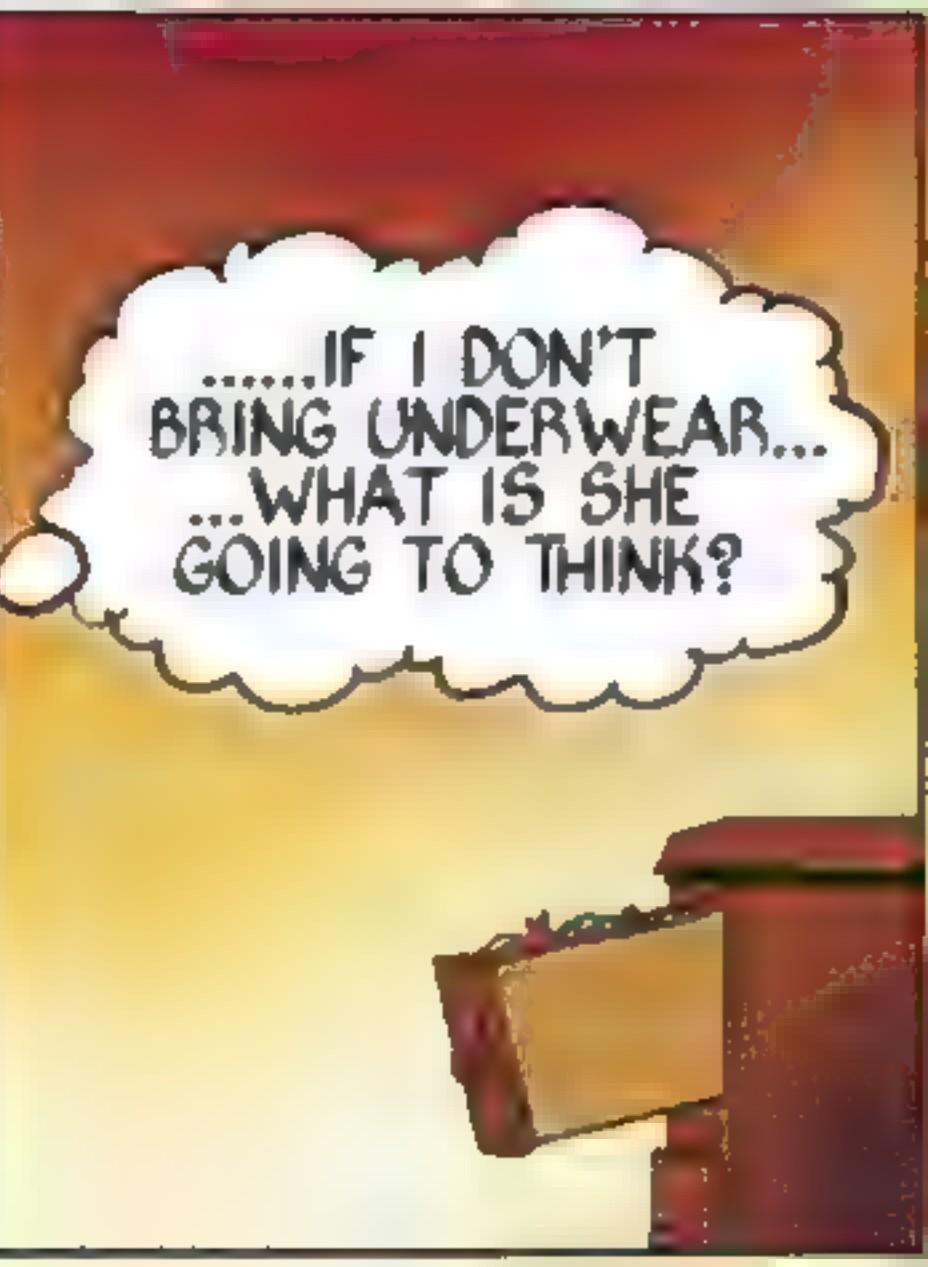


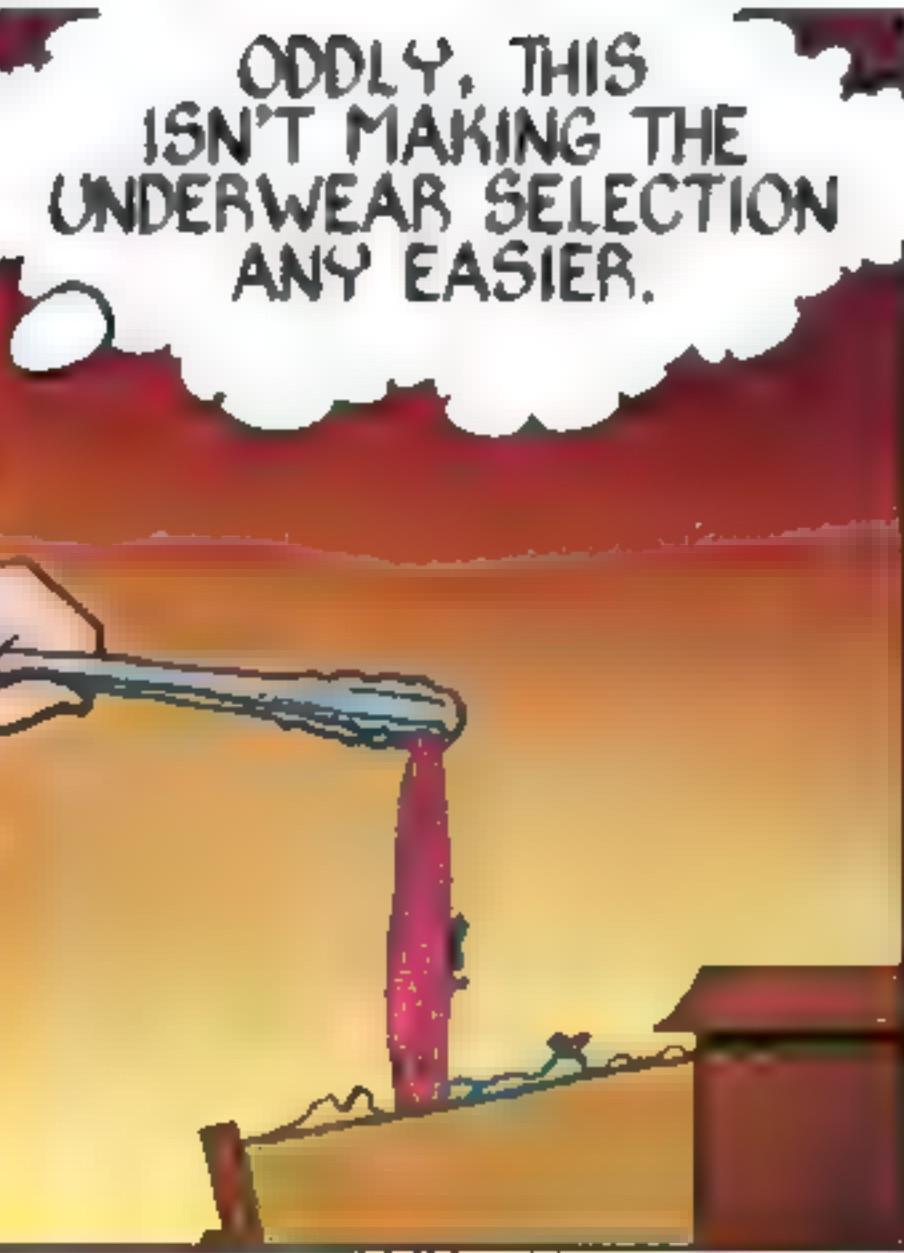
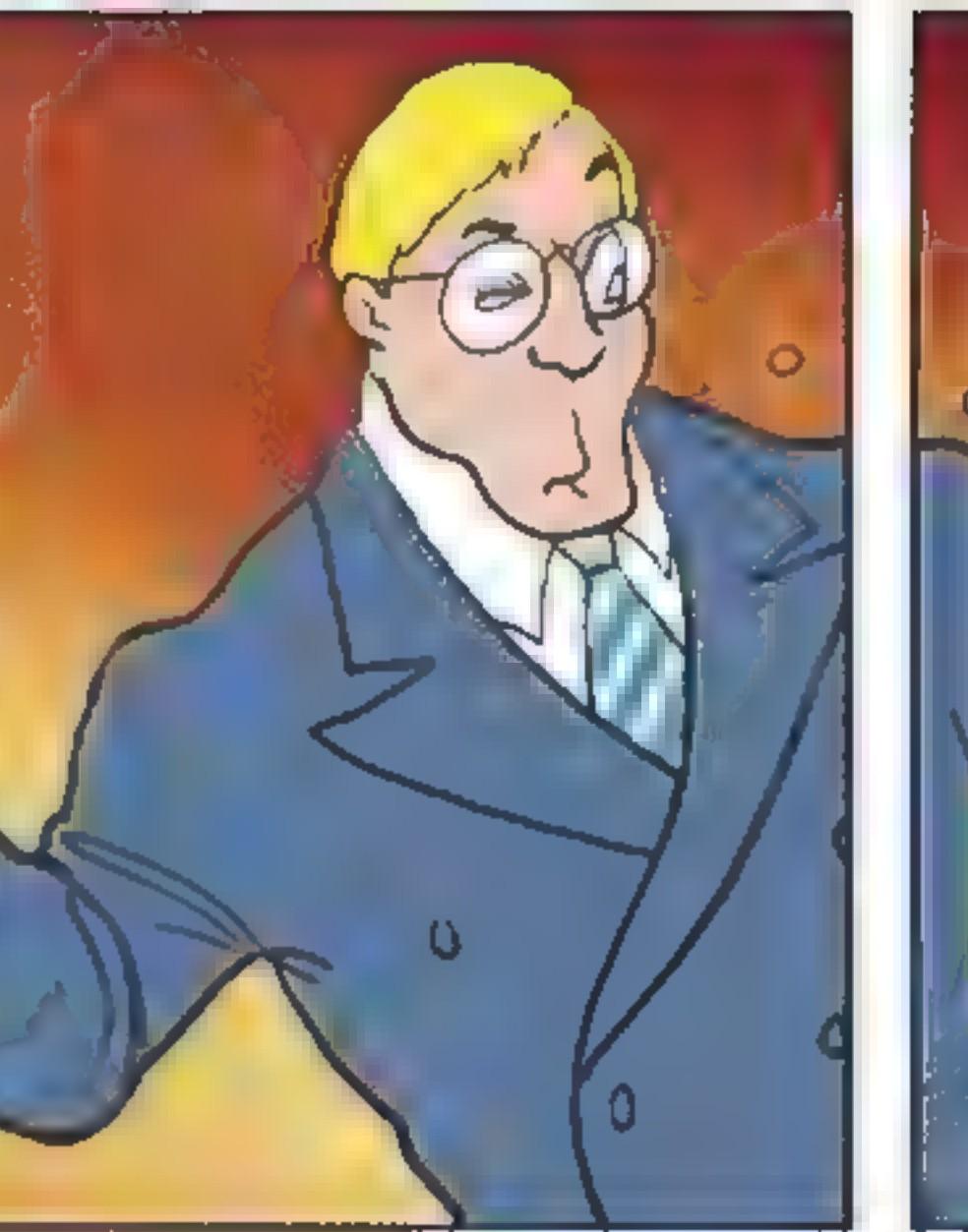




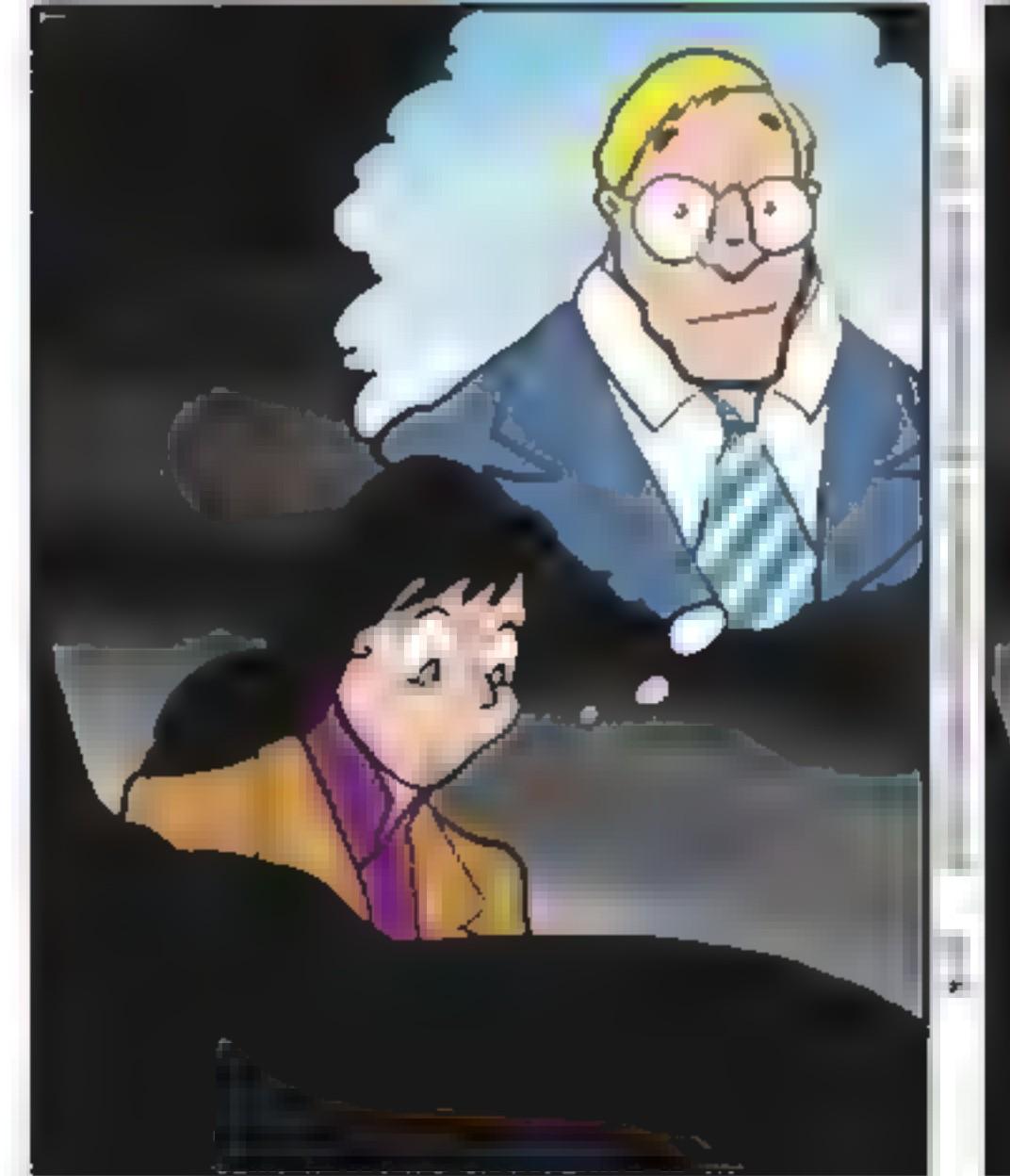
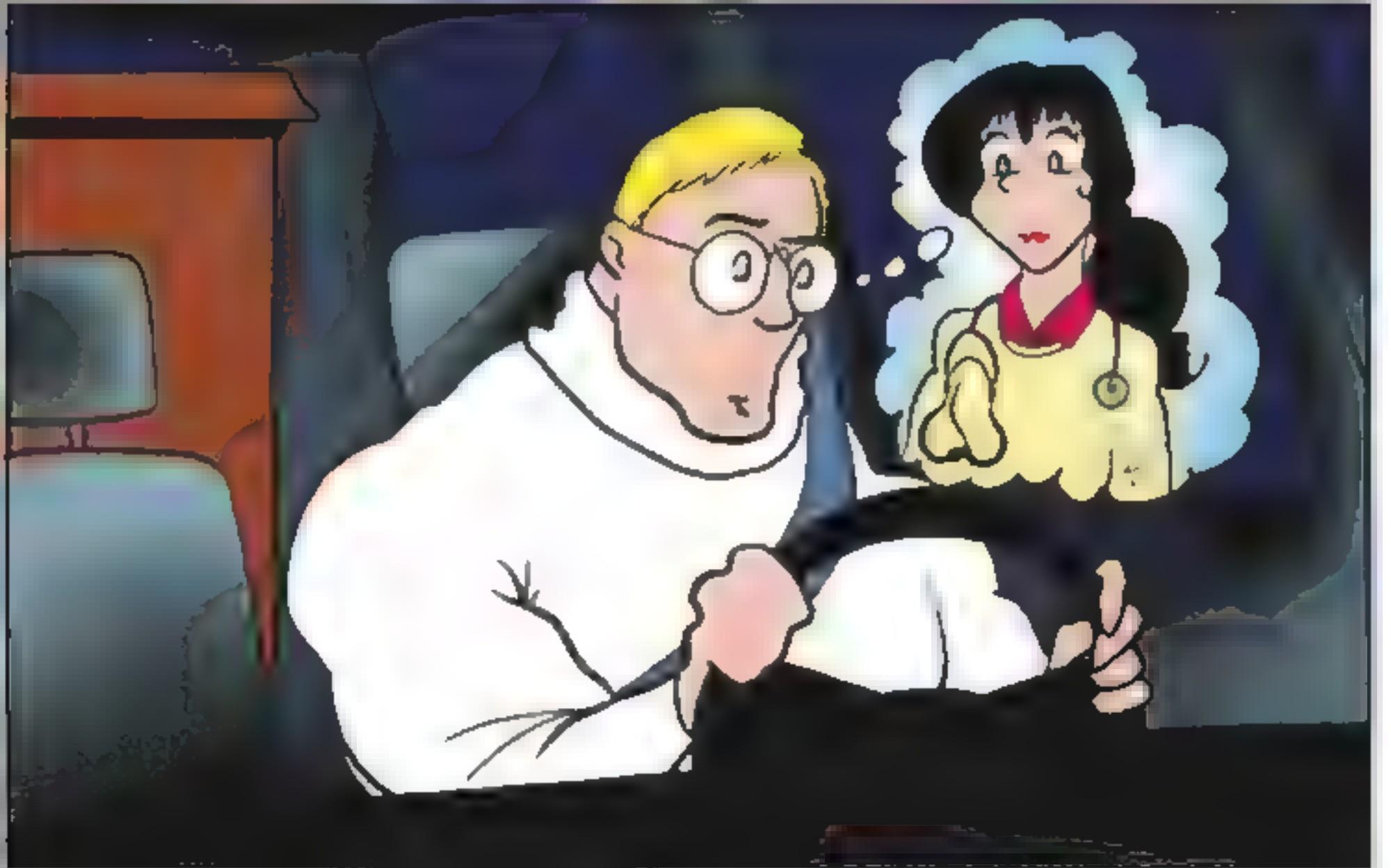


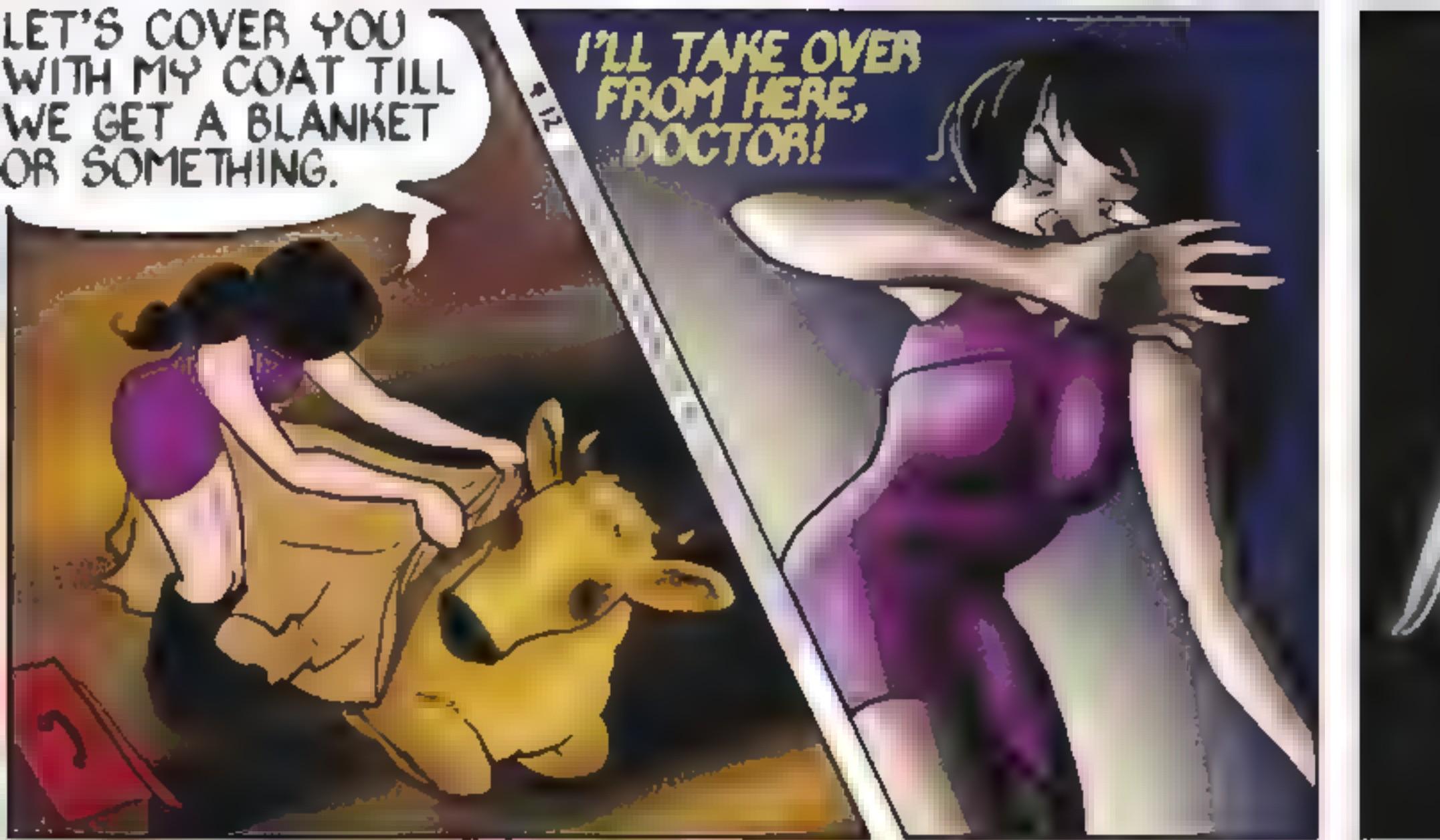
OKAY...CHANGE OF CLOTHING
FOR A COLD NIGHT: WARM
SHIRT, THICK
SWEATER,
JEANS,
OVERALLS,
GLOVES,
COAT...

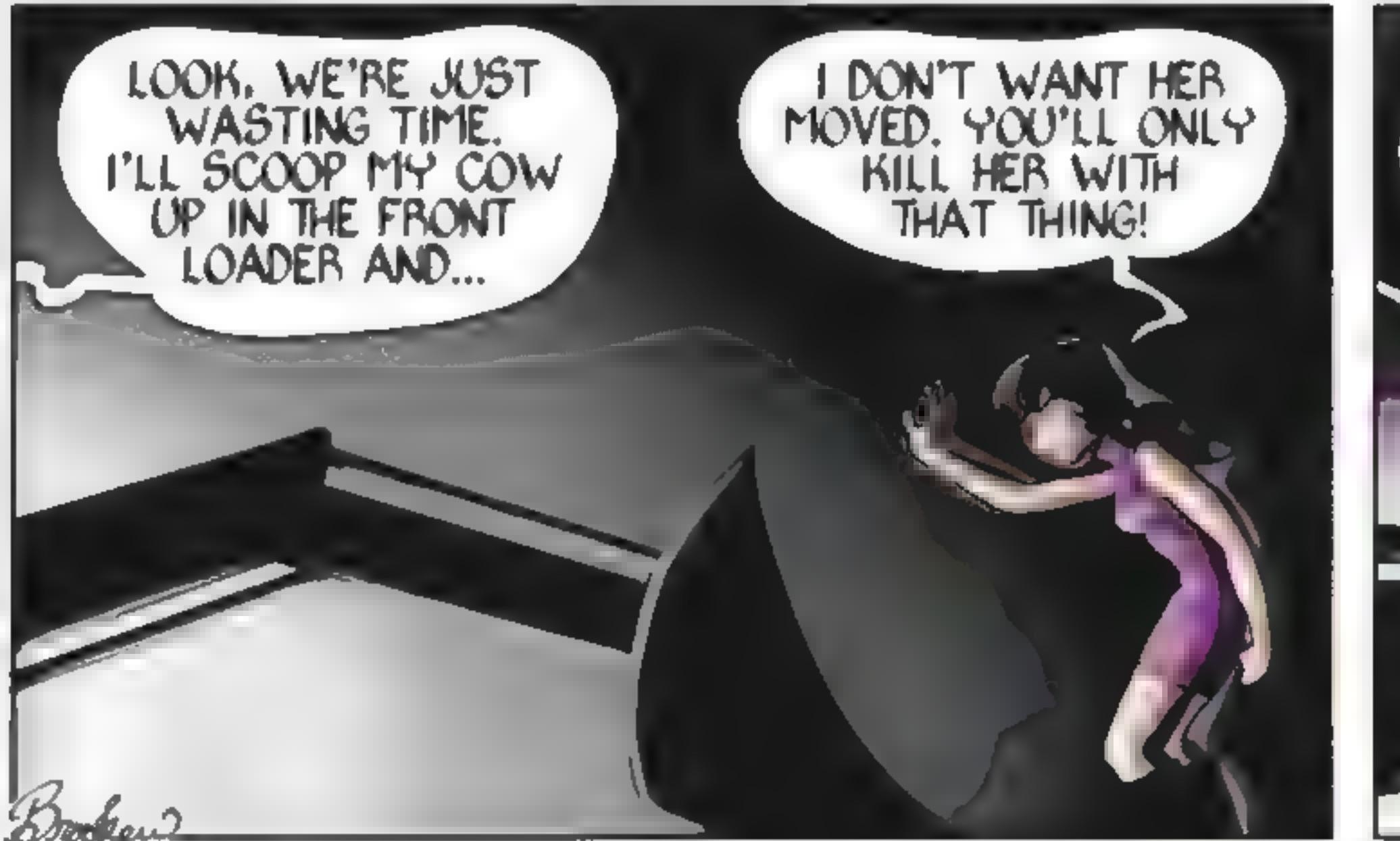


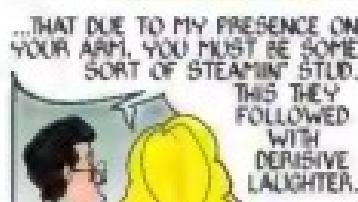
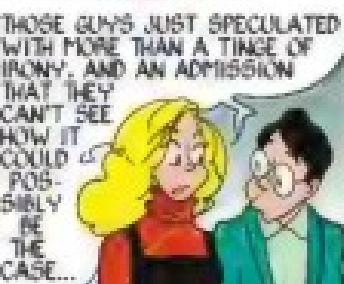
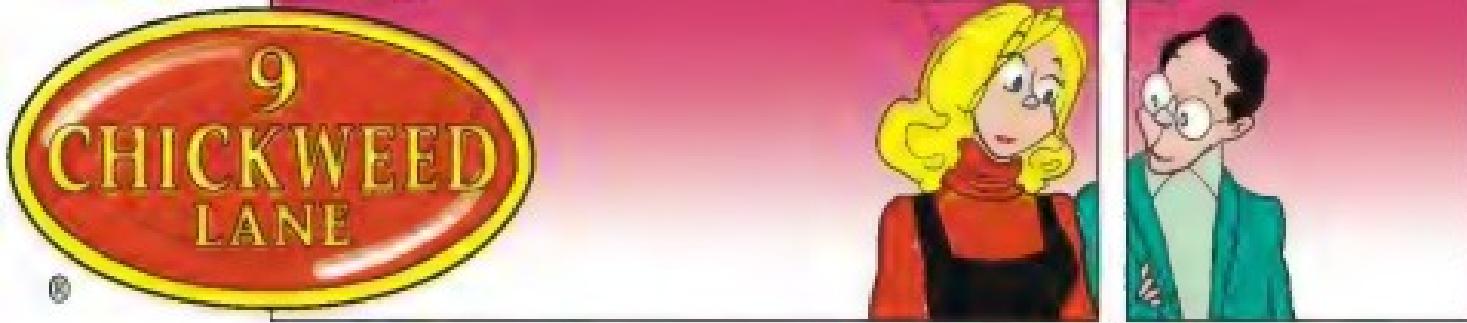








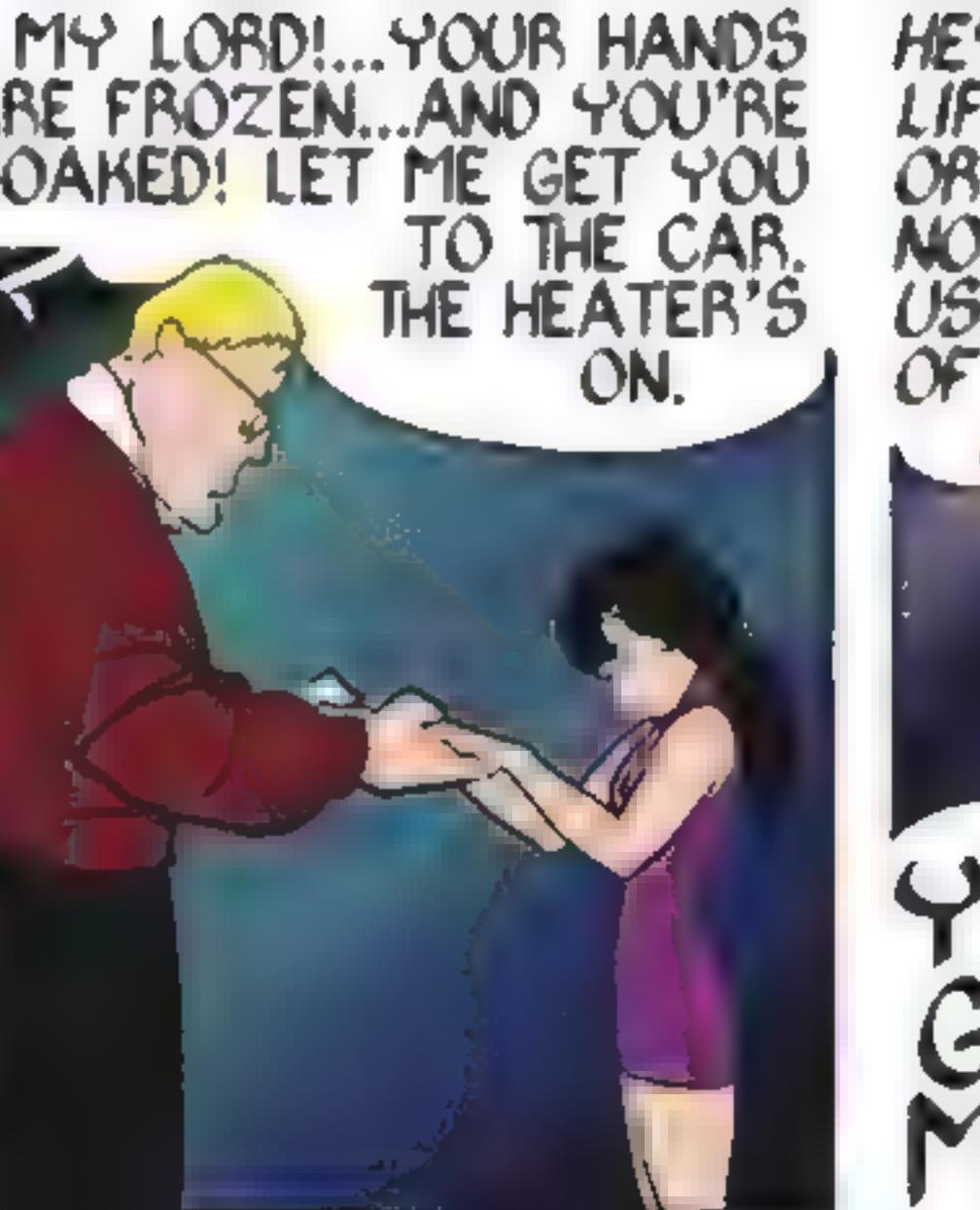




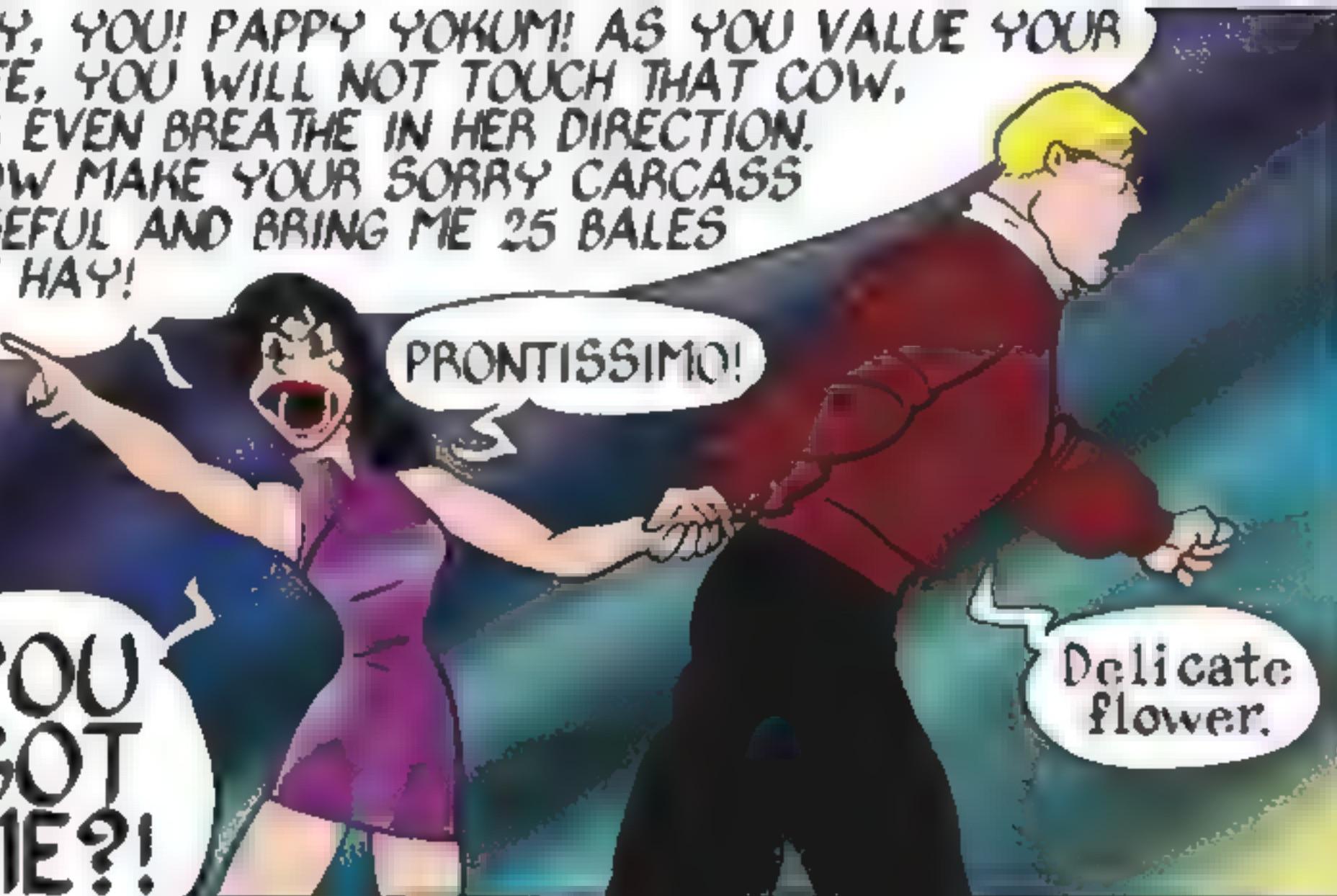




Brooken



MY LORD!...YOUR HANDS
ARE FROZEN...AND YOU'RE
SOAKED! LET ME GET YOU
TO THE CAR.
THE HEATER'S
ON.



HEY, YOU! PAPPY YOKUM! AS YOU VALUE YOUR
LIFE, YOU WILL NOT TOUCH THAT COW,
OR EVEN BREATHE IN HER DIRECTION.
NOW MAKE YOUR SORRY CARCASS
USEFUL AND BRING ME 25 BALES
OF HAY!

PRONTISSIMO!

YOU GOT
ME?!

Delicate
flower.











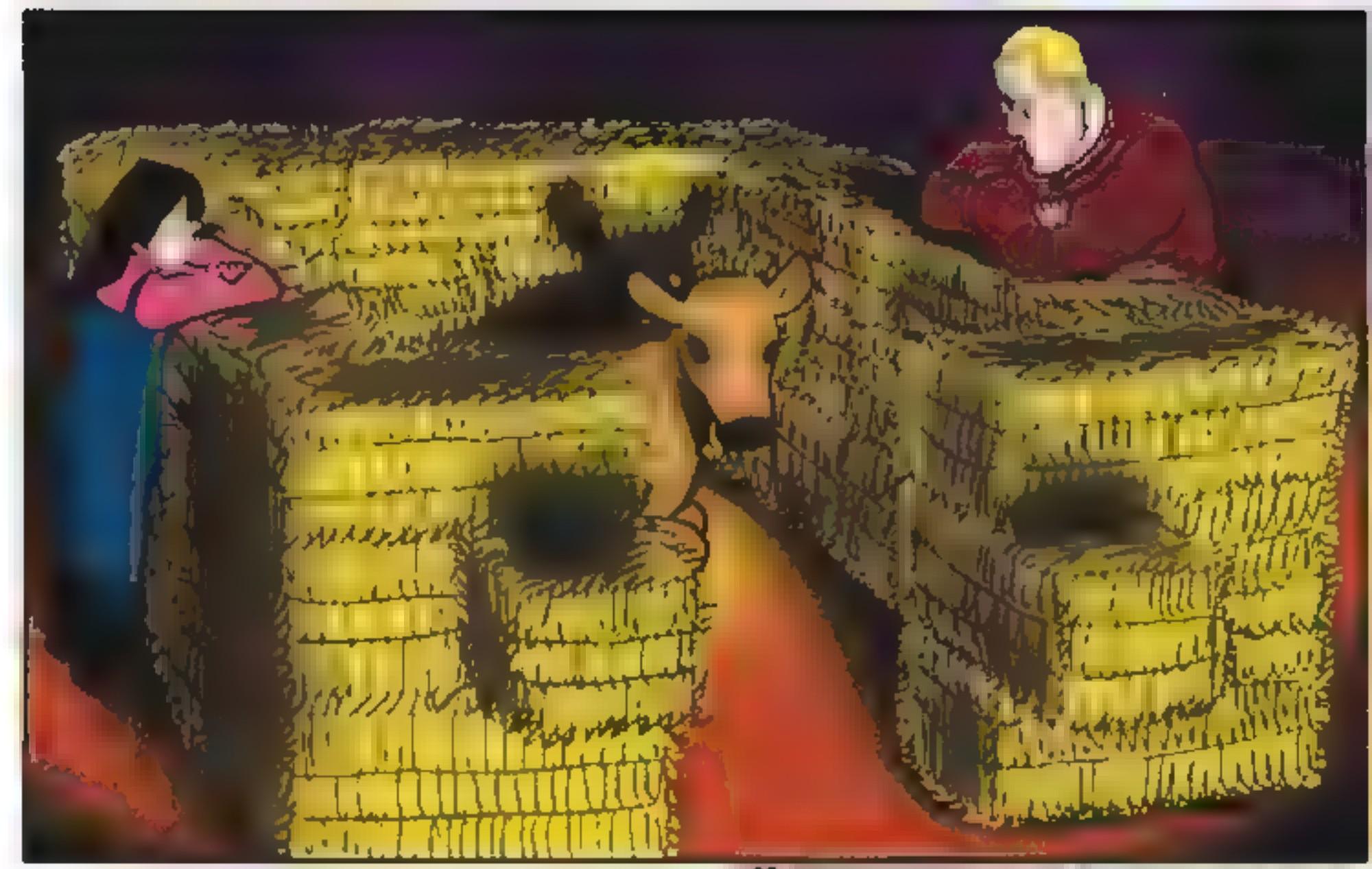
9 CHICKWEED LANE

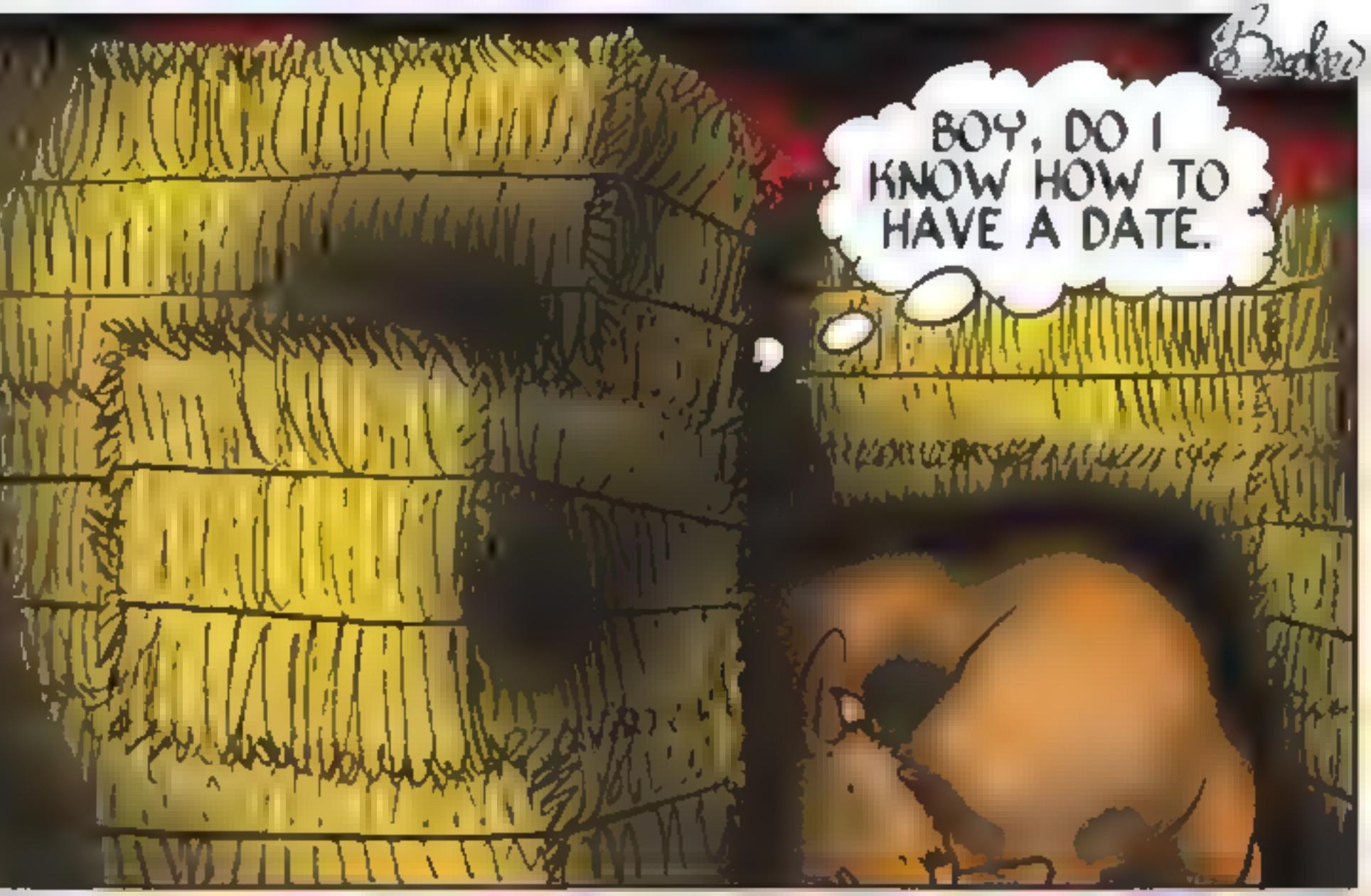
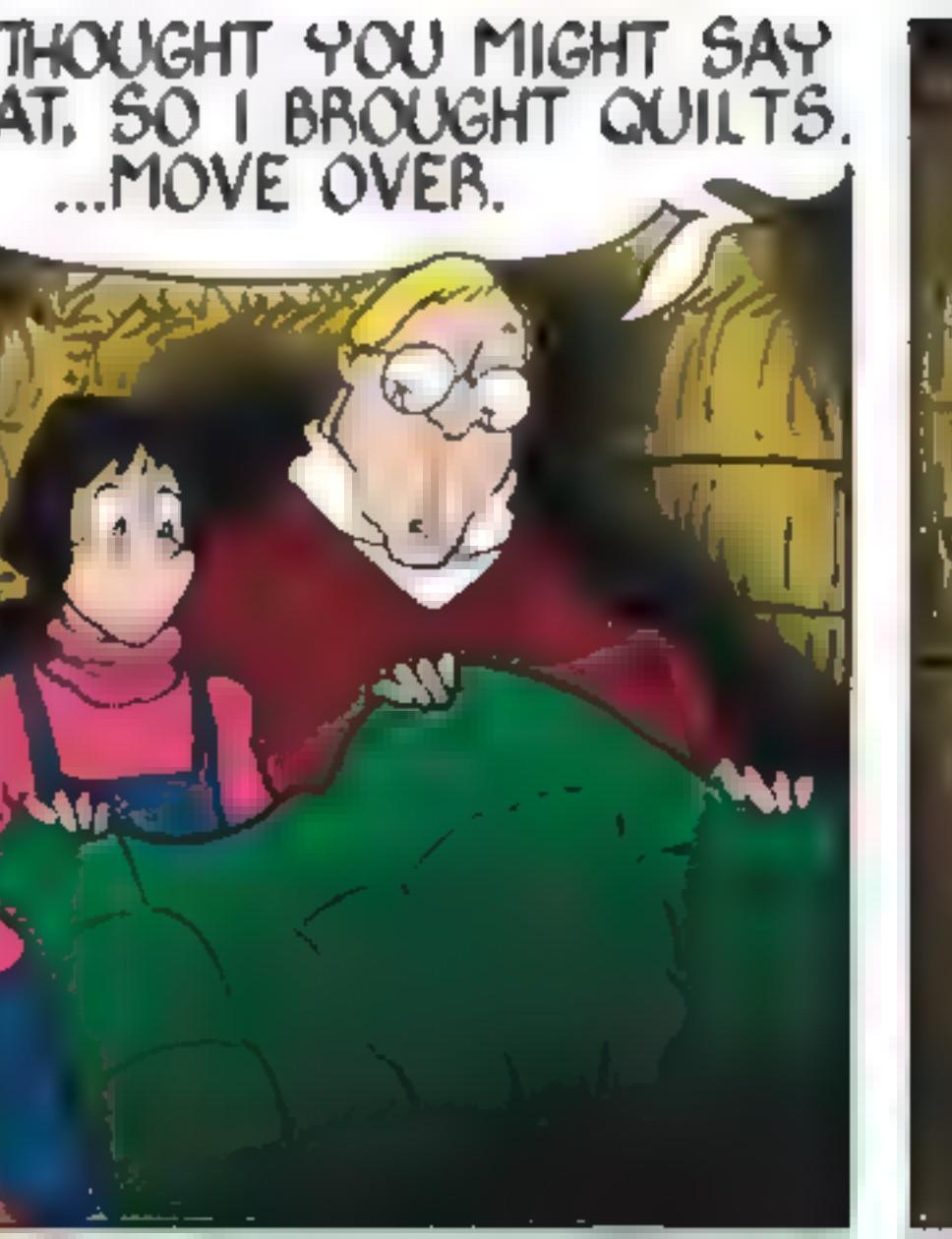
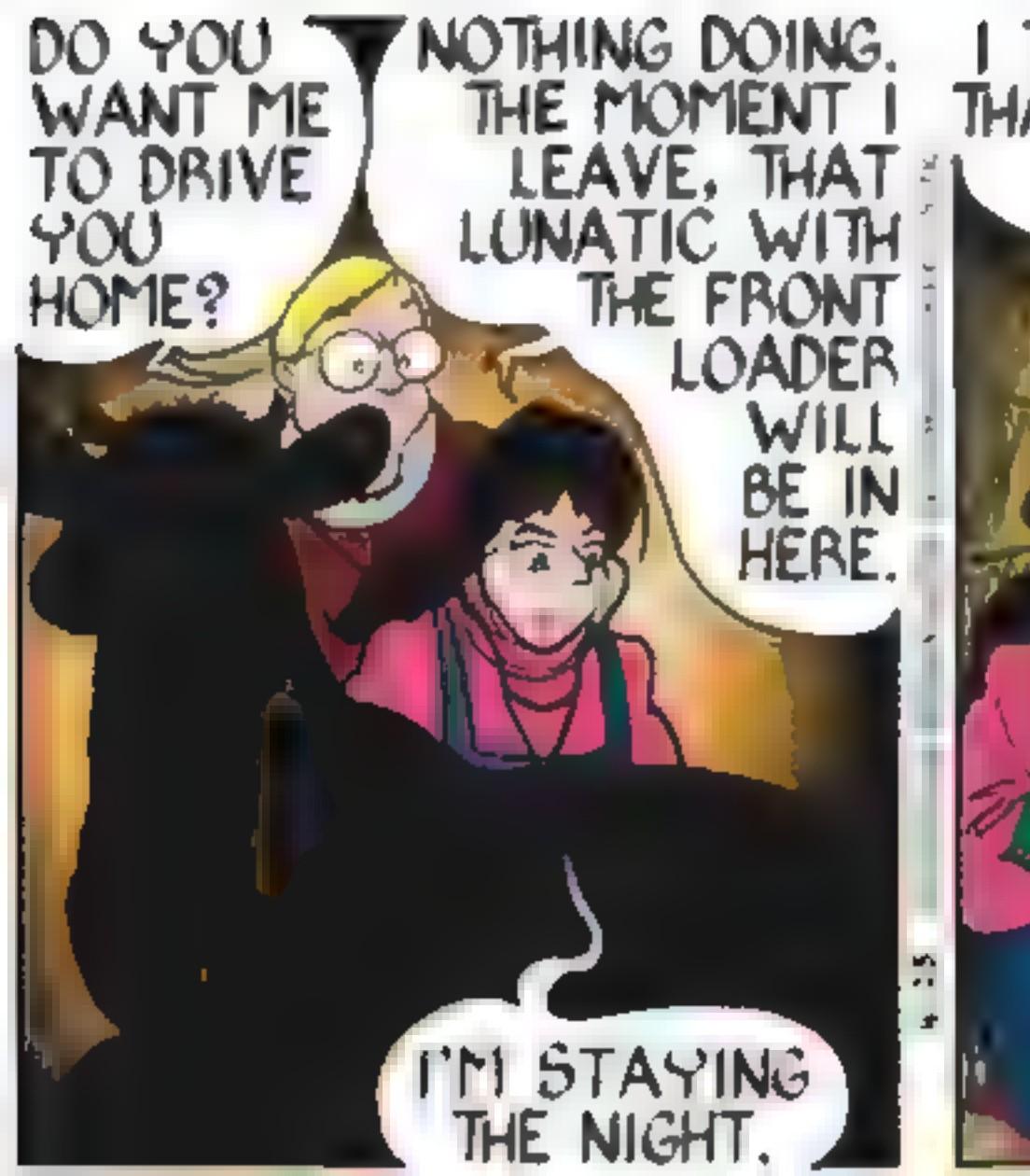
GENGHIS KHAN meets Attila the Hun

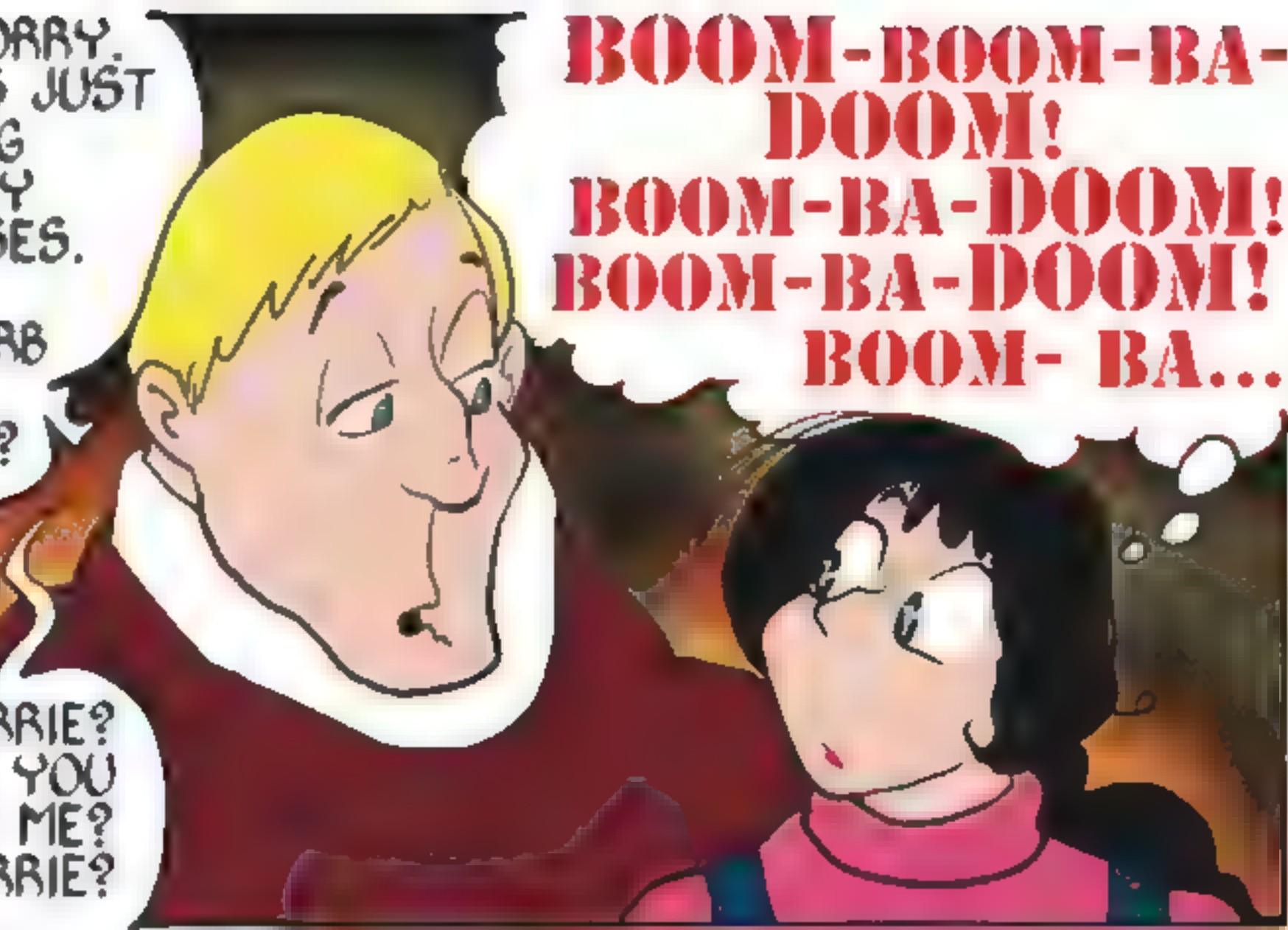
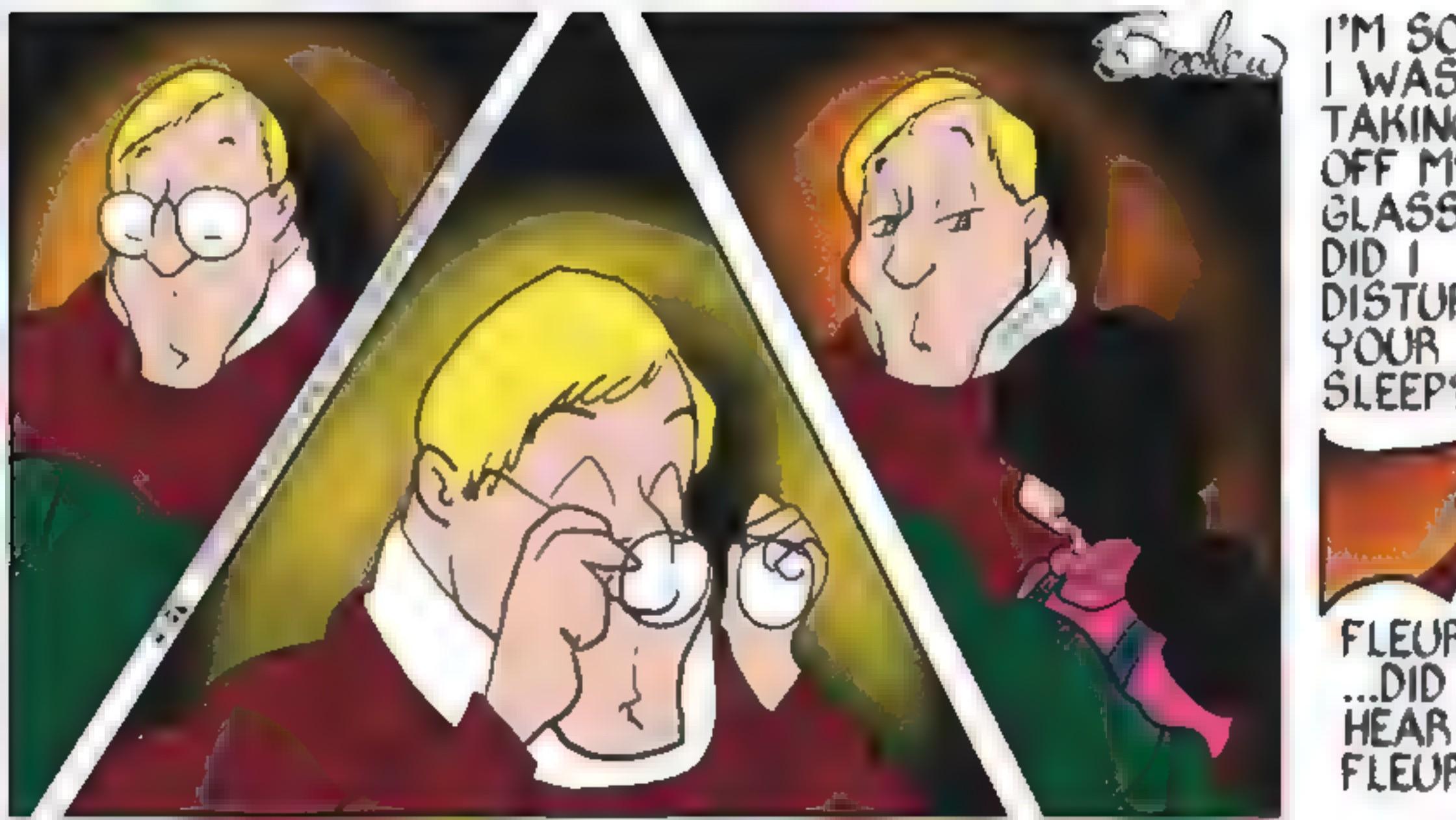


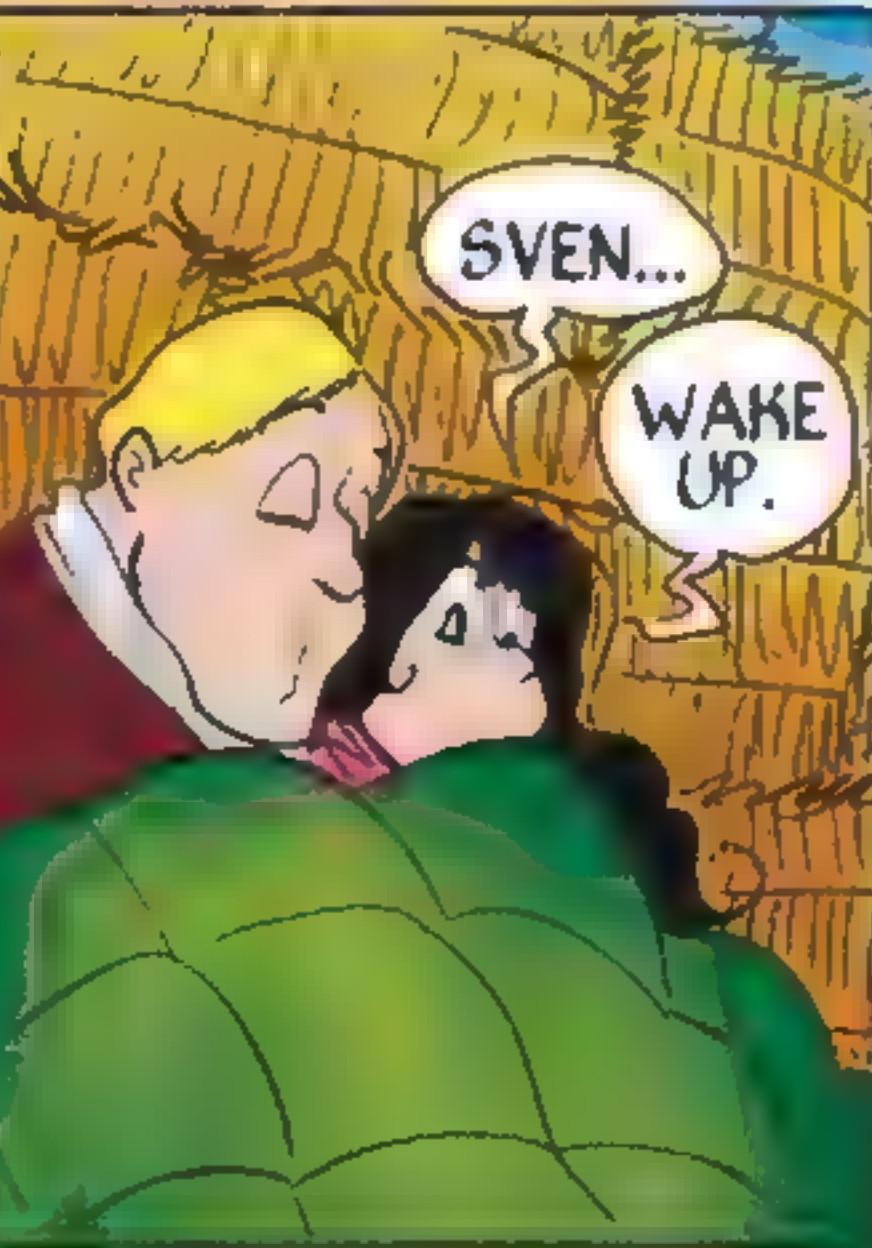




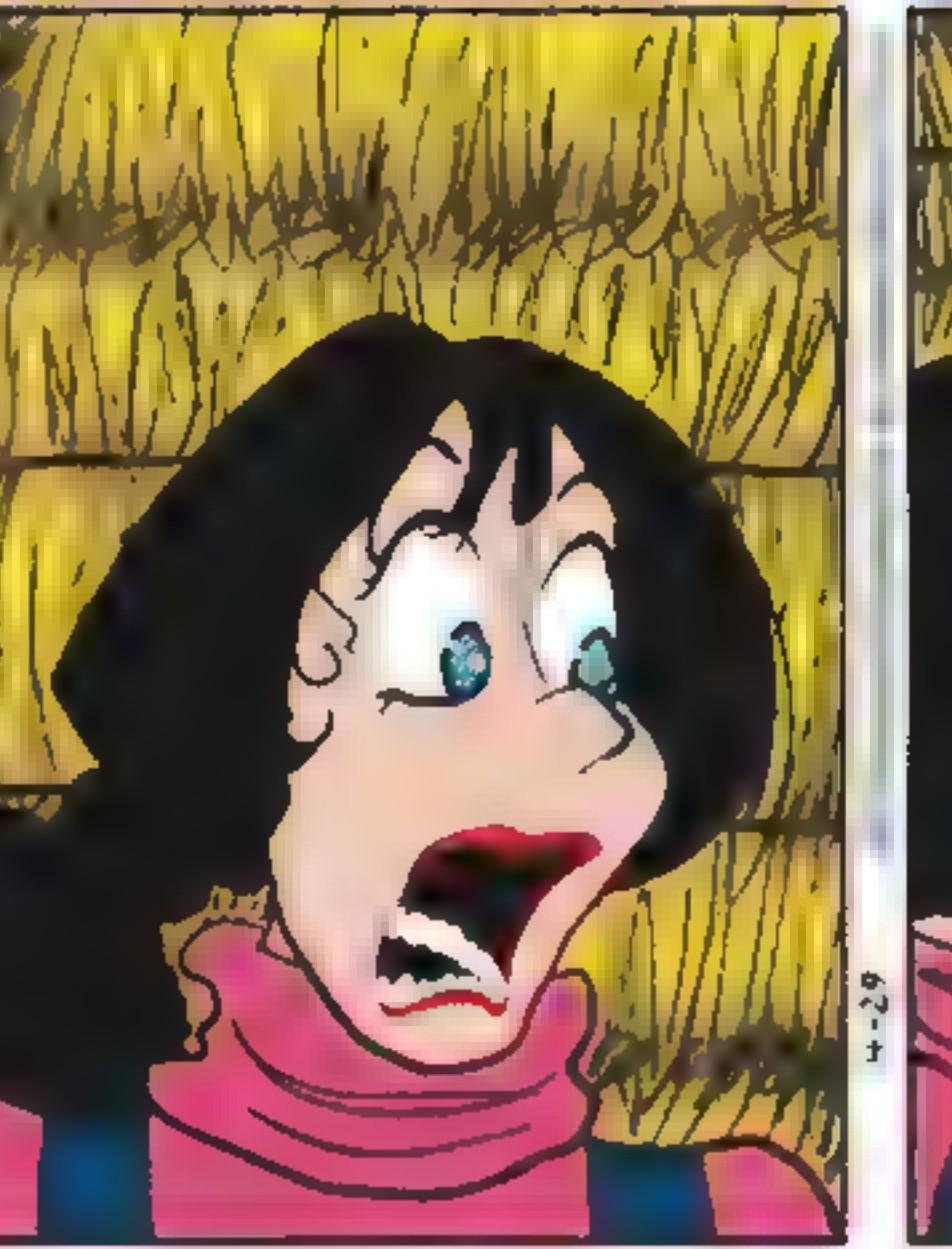
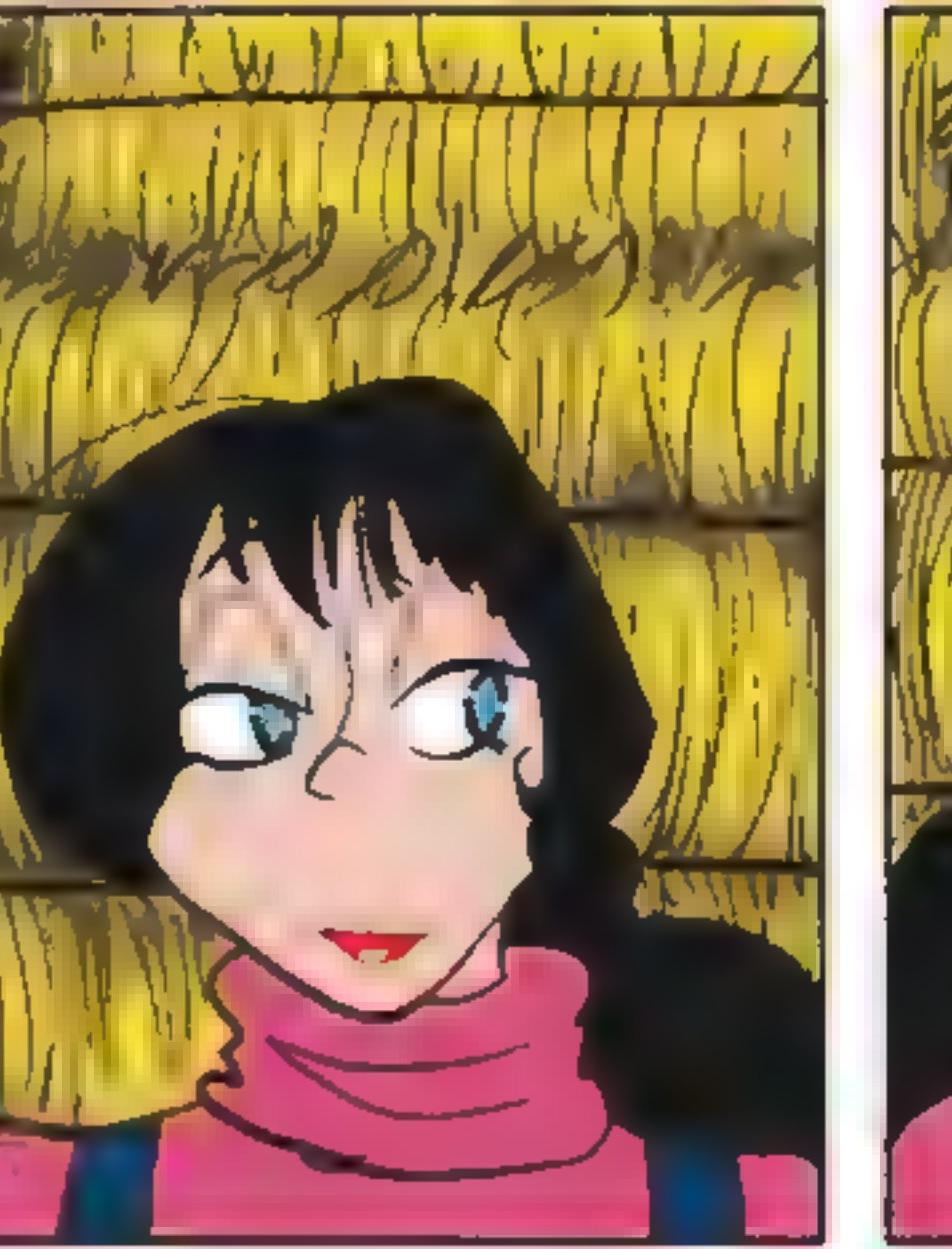






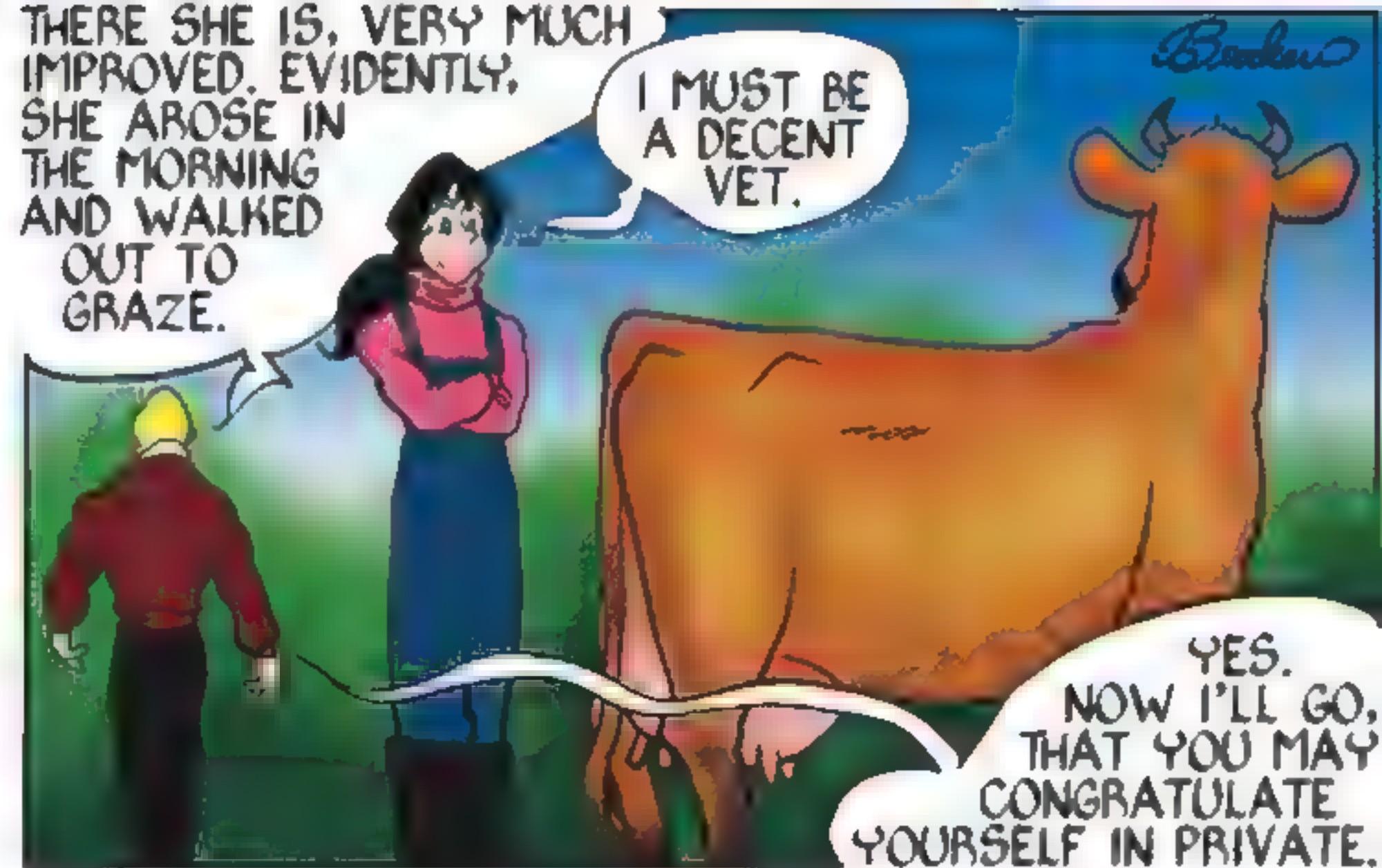
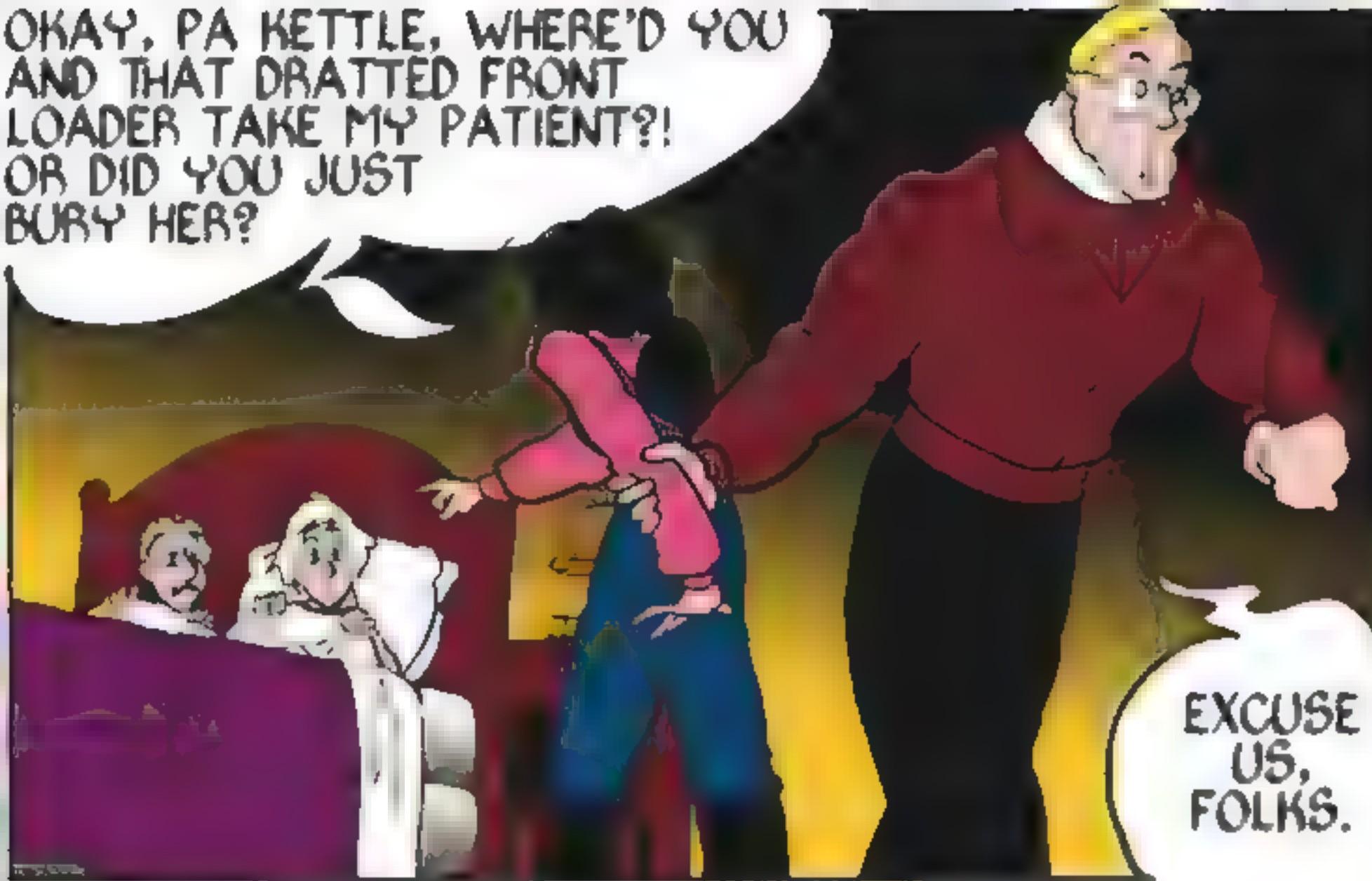


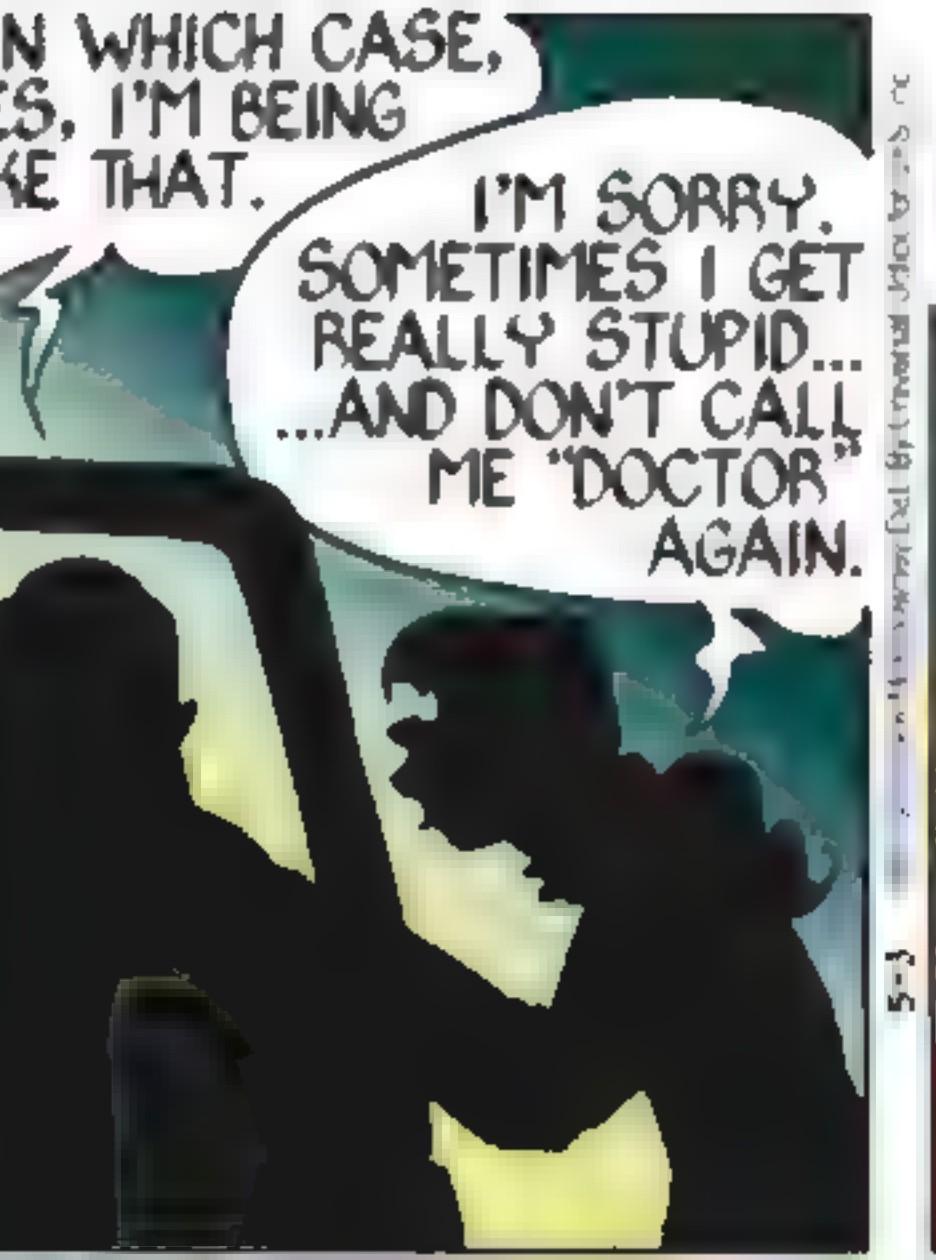


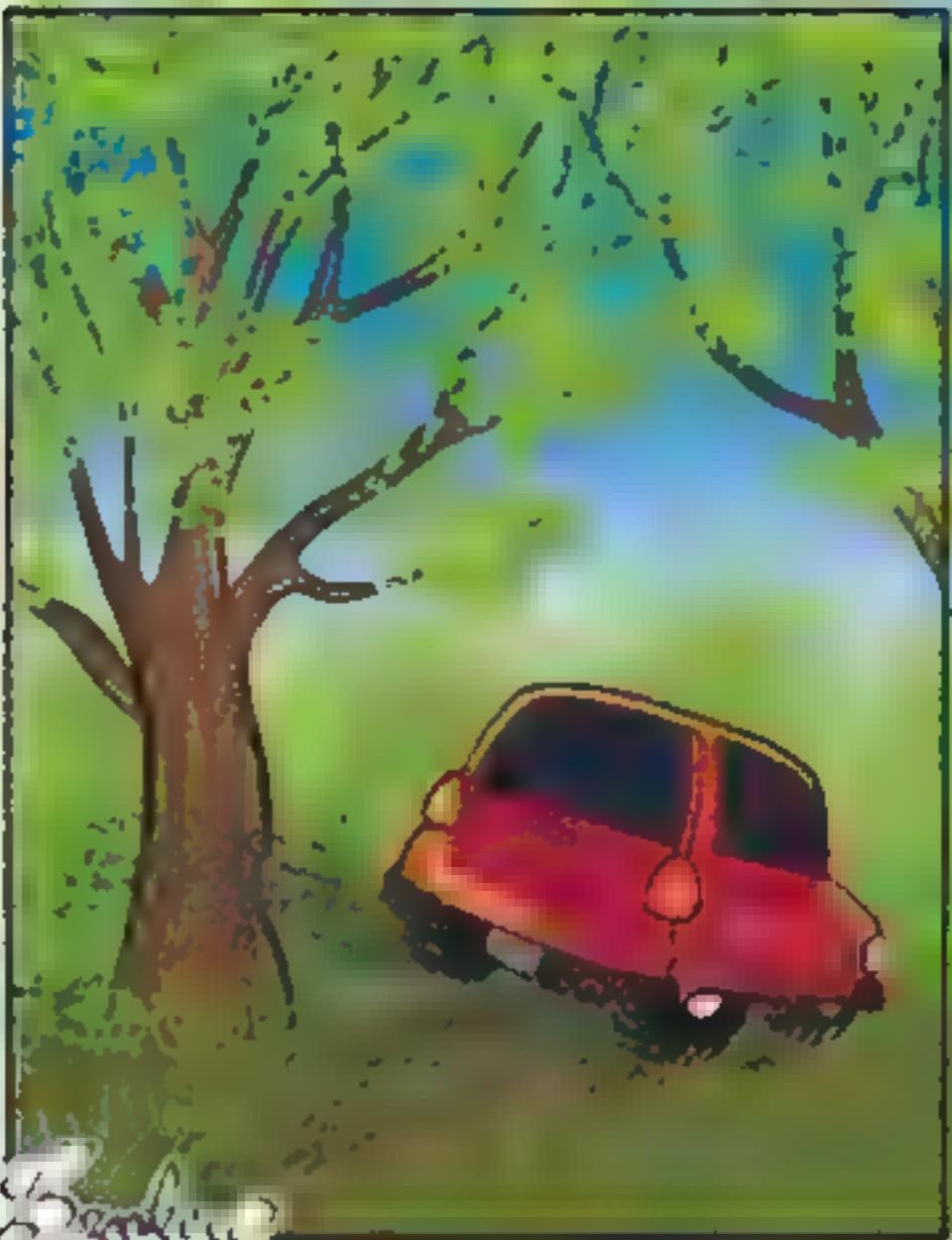


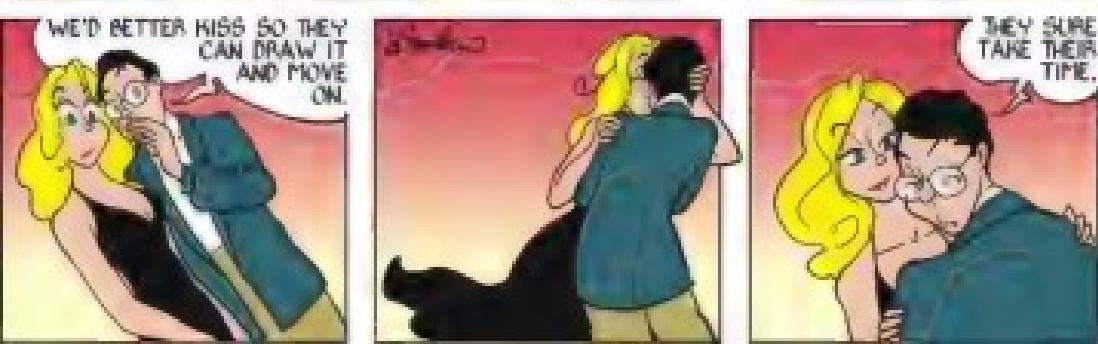


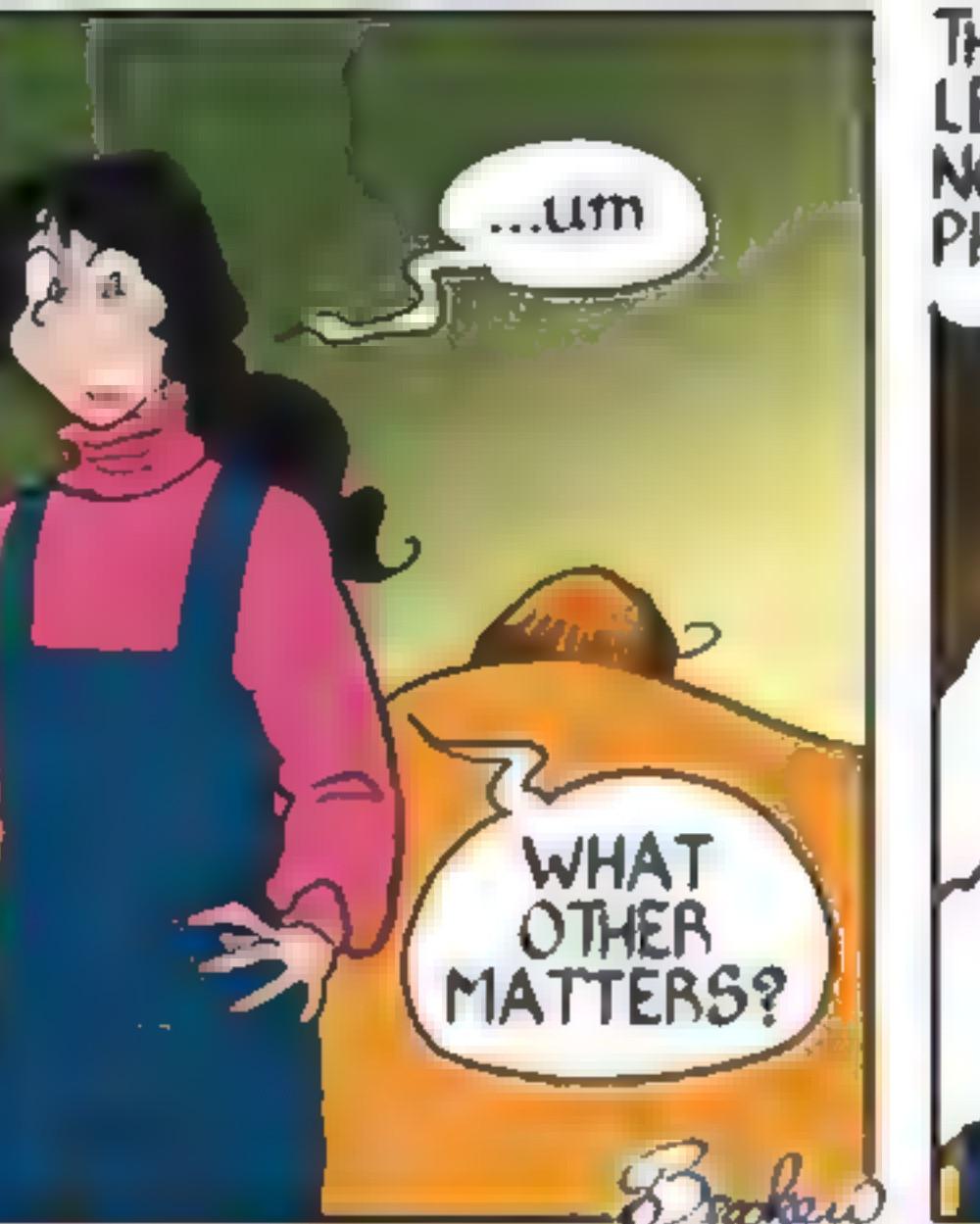




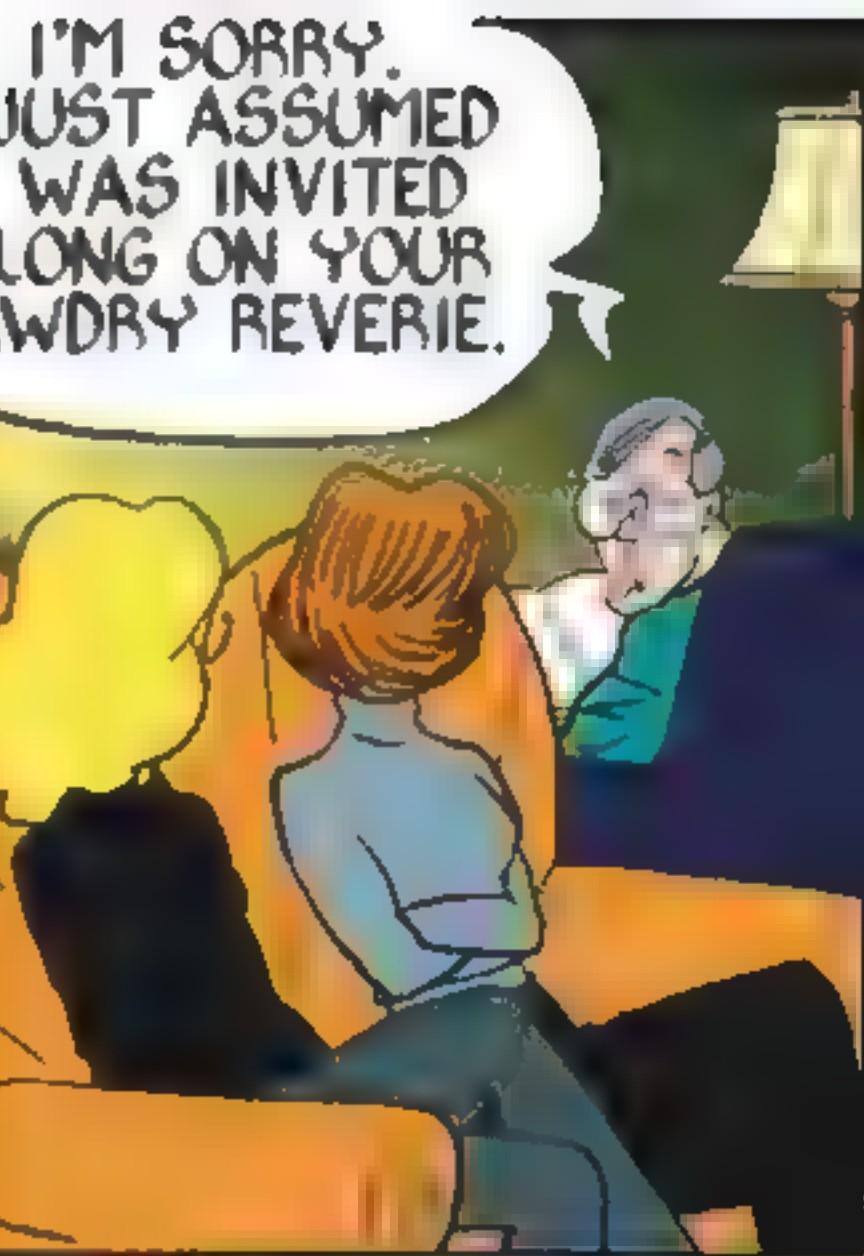
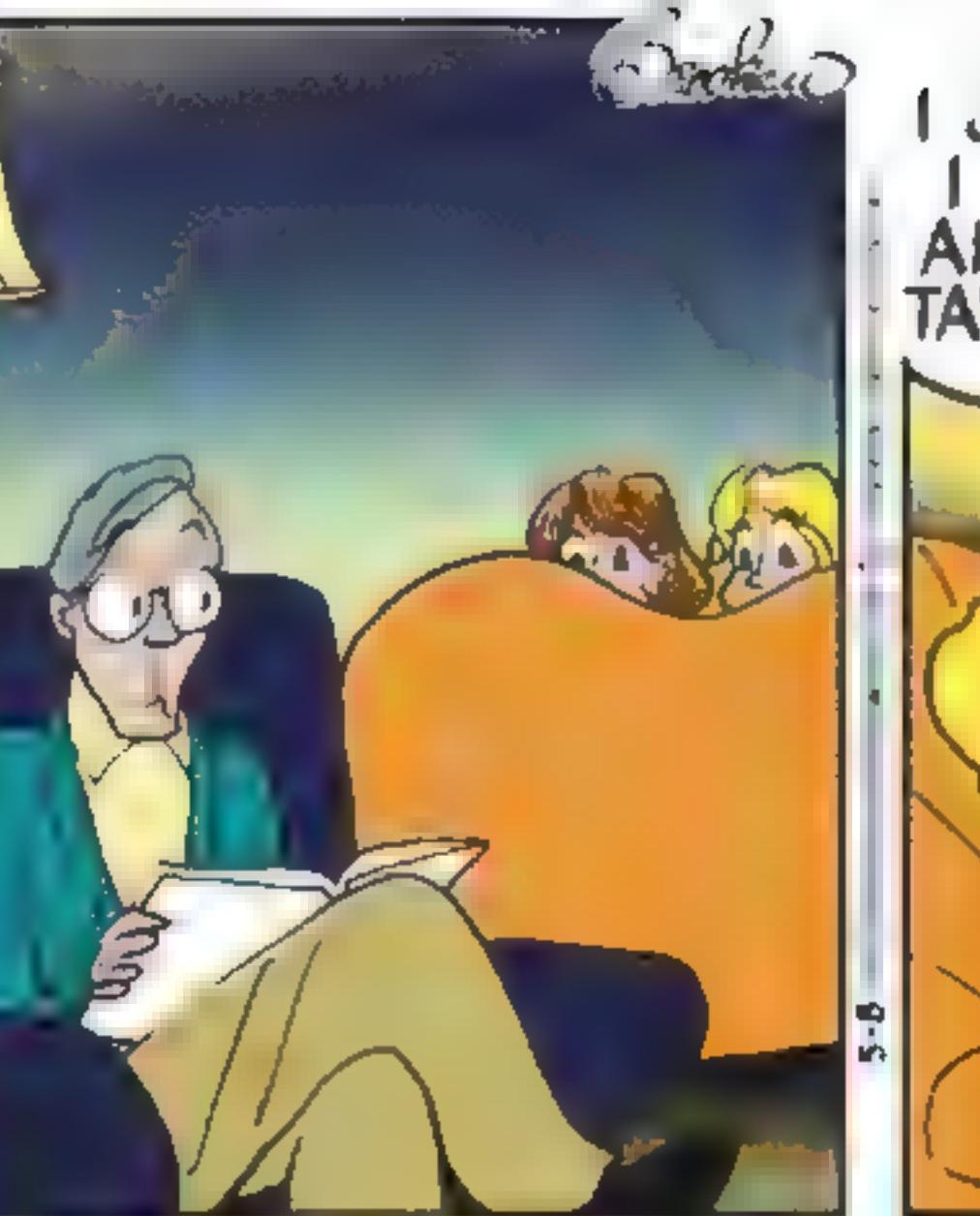
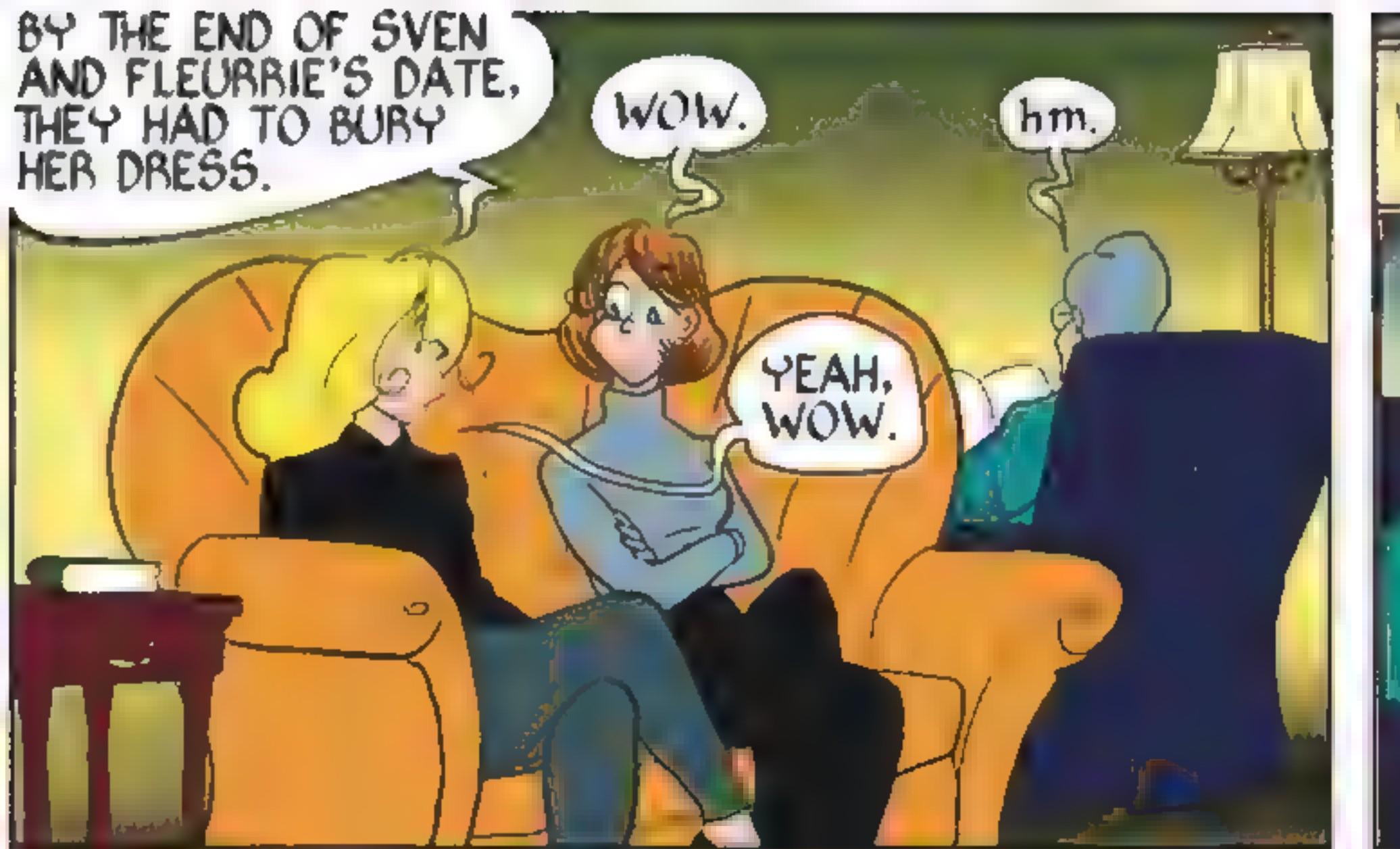




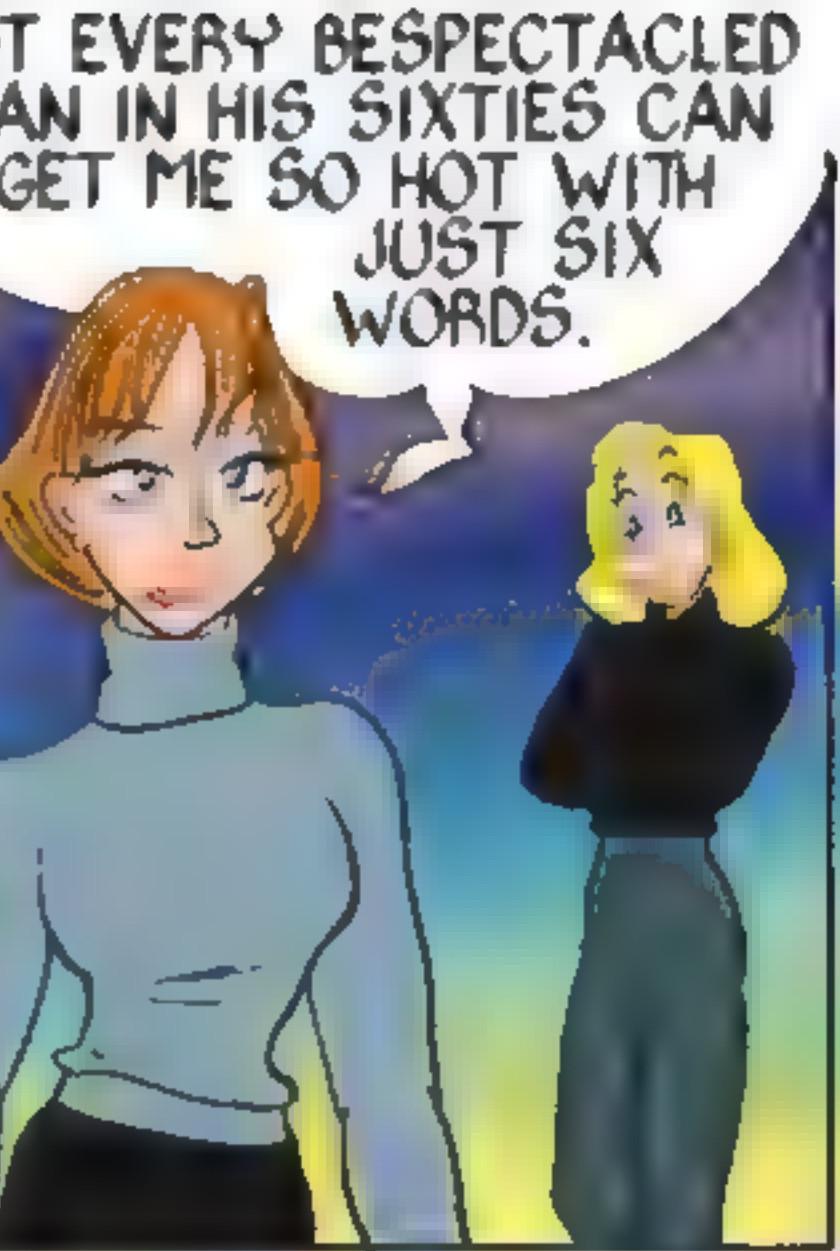
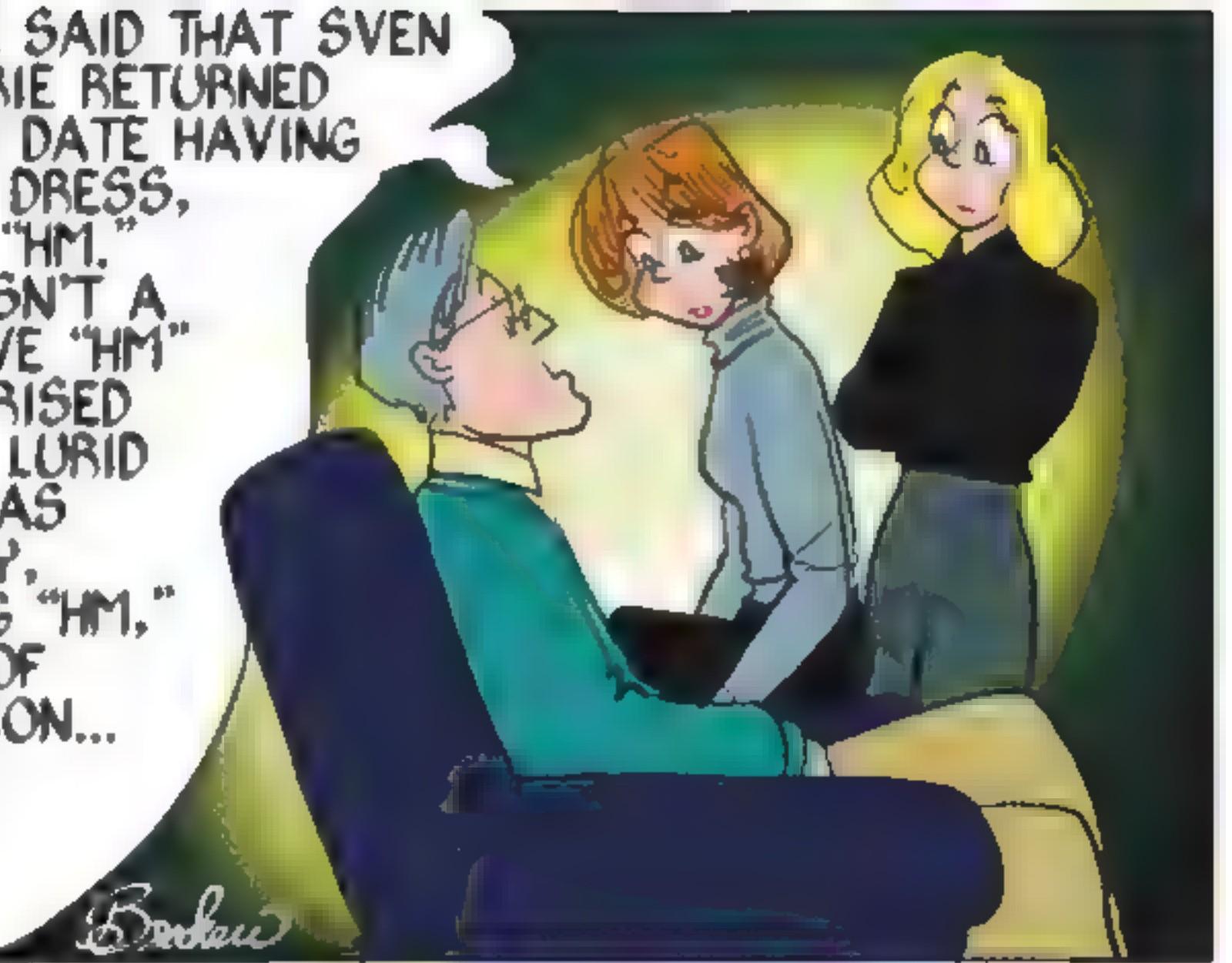


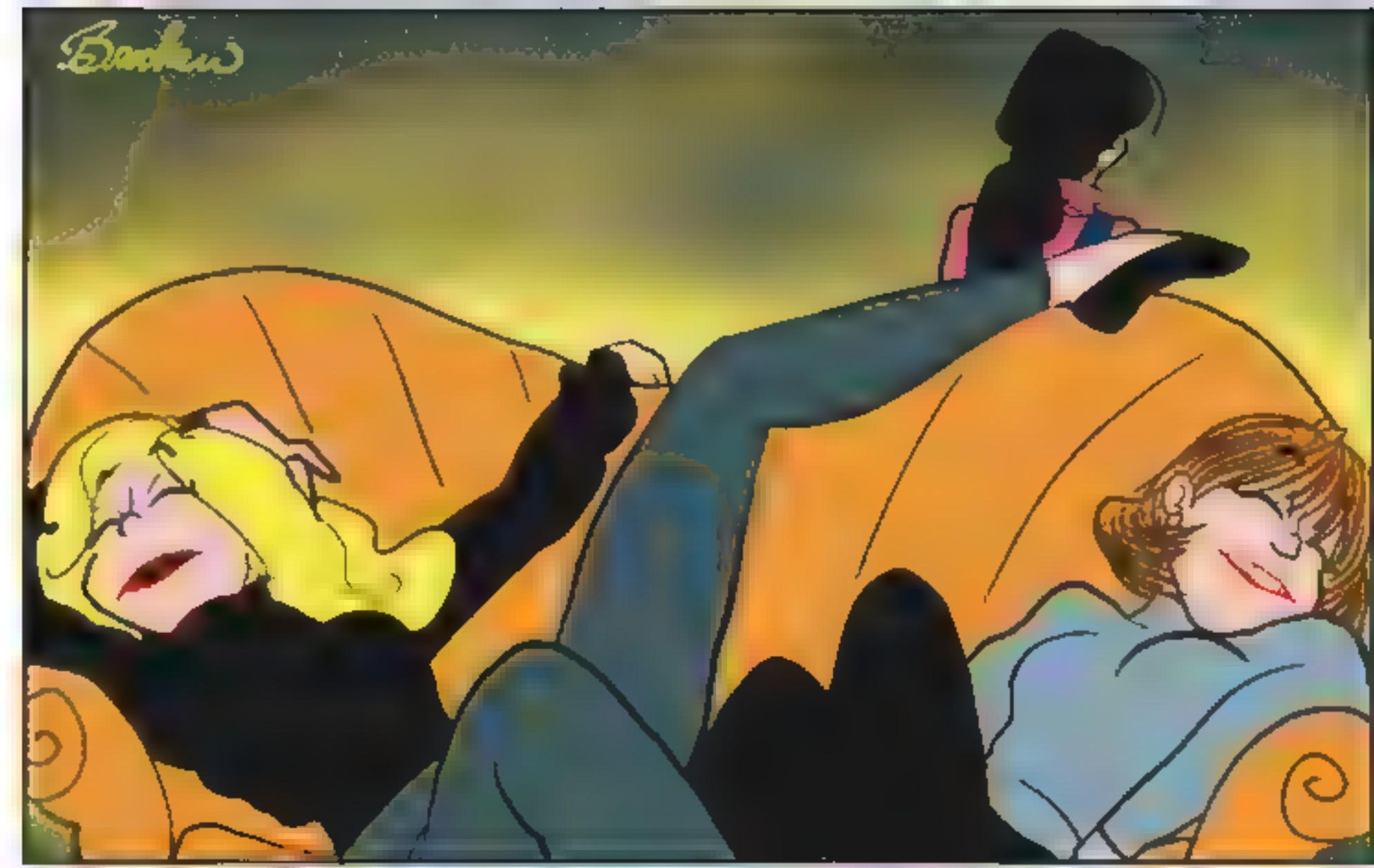
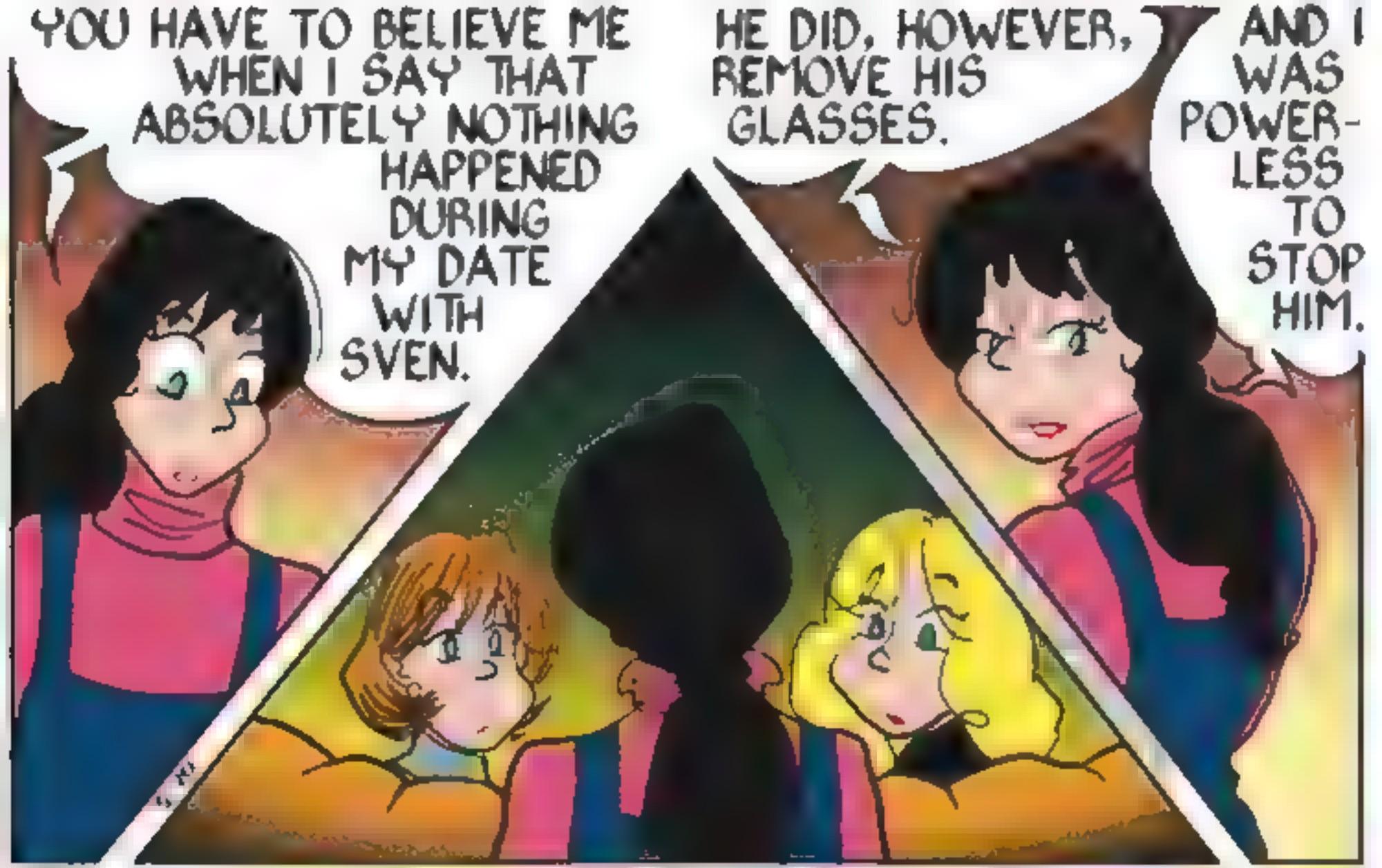


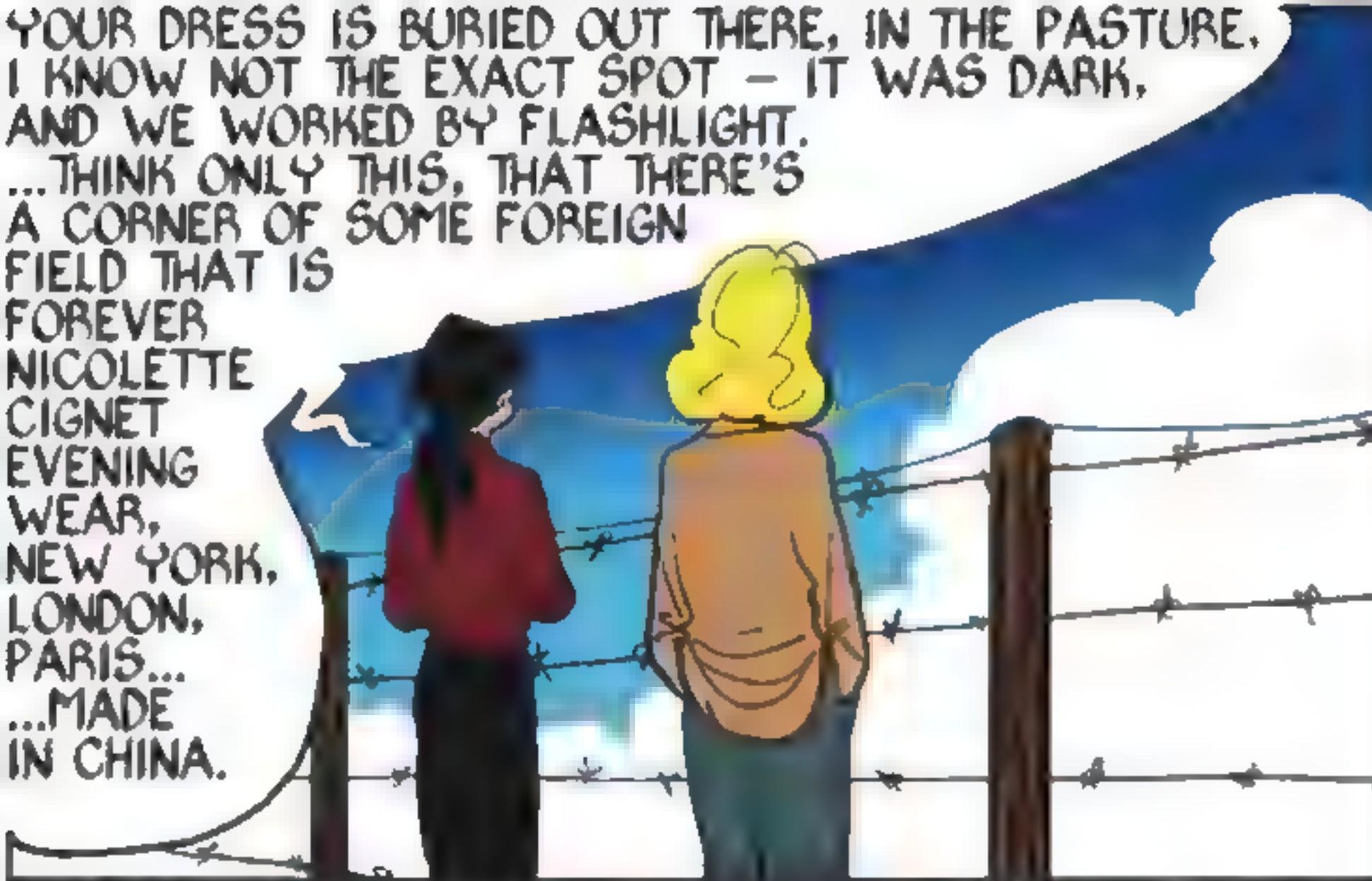




WHEN EDDA SAID THAT SVEN
AND FLEURRIE RETURNED
FROM THEIR DATE HAVING
BURIED HER DRESS,
YOU SAID, "HM."
BUT IT WASN'T A
SPECULATIVE "HM"
OR A SURPRISED
OR EVEN A LURID
"HM." IT WAS
JUST A DRY,
IDENTIFYING "HM,"
ONE BORN OF
RECOLLECTION...
...OF PAST,
POSSIBLY
INTERRED,
DRESSES.









DO YOU REMEMBER, WHEN YOU
WERE A LITTLE GIRL, HOW YOU
COLLECTED TINY SCRAPS
OF COLORED PAPER?



THEY WERE ALL PRECIOUS TO
YOU, AND YOU'D TAKE THEM
EVERWHERE AND PLAY WITH
THEM, AND AT NIGHT YOU'D
INSIST THEY BE PLACED IN A BOX
BESIDE YOUR
BED
BEFORE YOU'D
GO TO
SLEEP.



WHAT I NEVER DARED TELL YOU IS THAT, ONCE IN A WHILE,
I COULDN'T FIND A SCRAP OF YOUR PAPER, SO I'D
MAKE ONE UP TO REPLACE IT,
AND PUT IT IN
YOUR LITTLE
BOX AT
NIGHT.



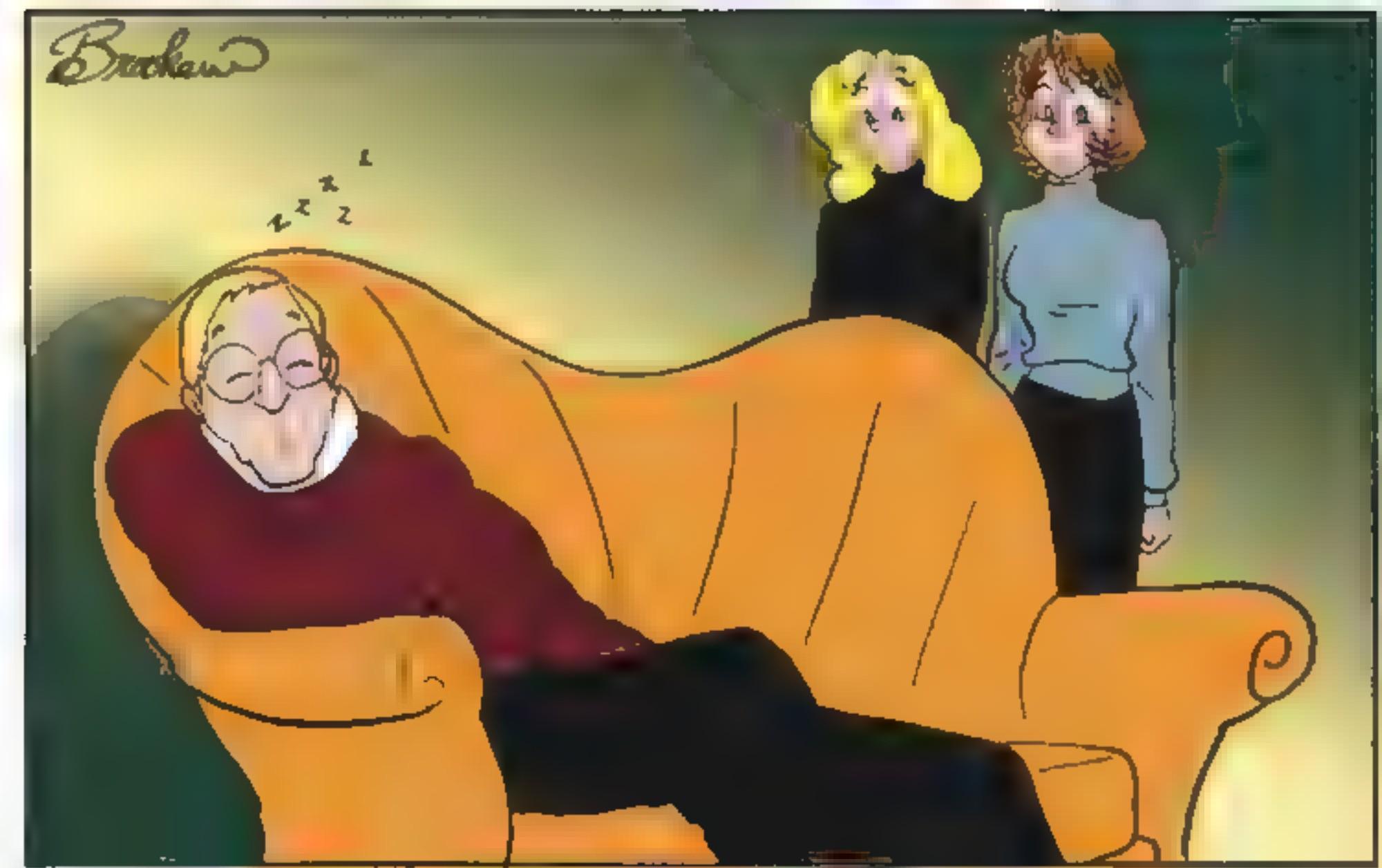
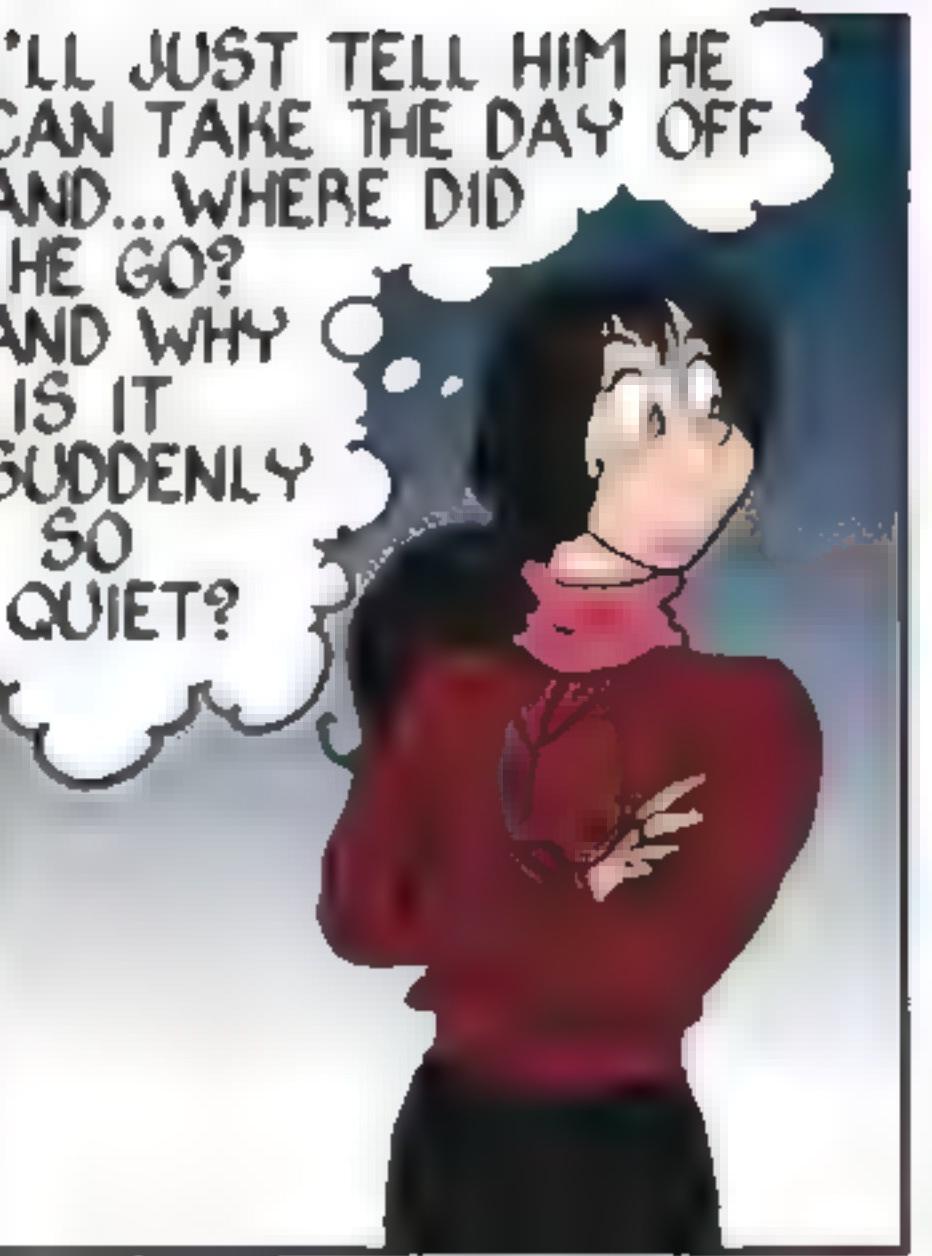
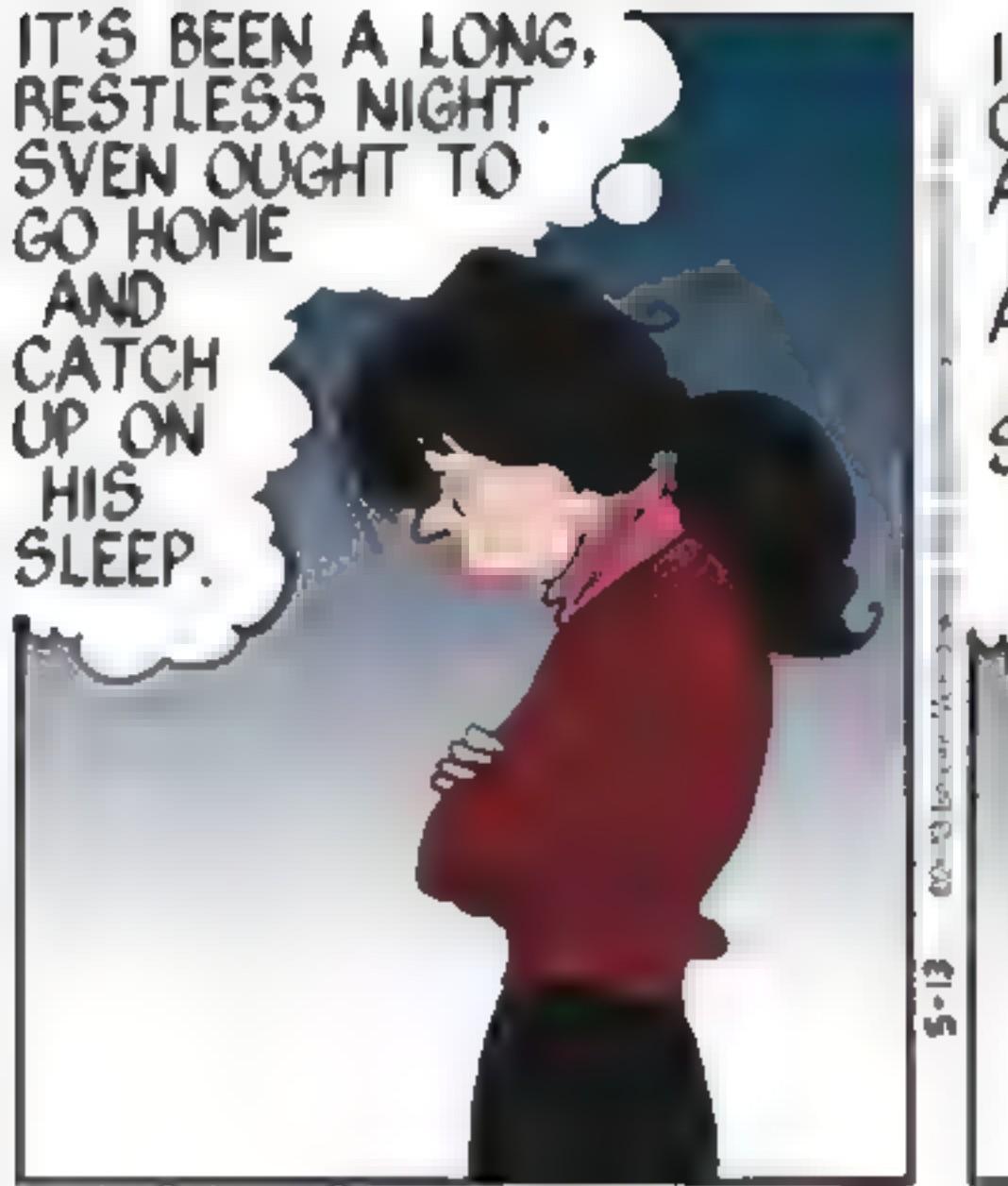
OH, GOOD GRIEF.
EDDA, YOU'RE
GROWN-UP
NOW!



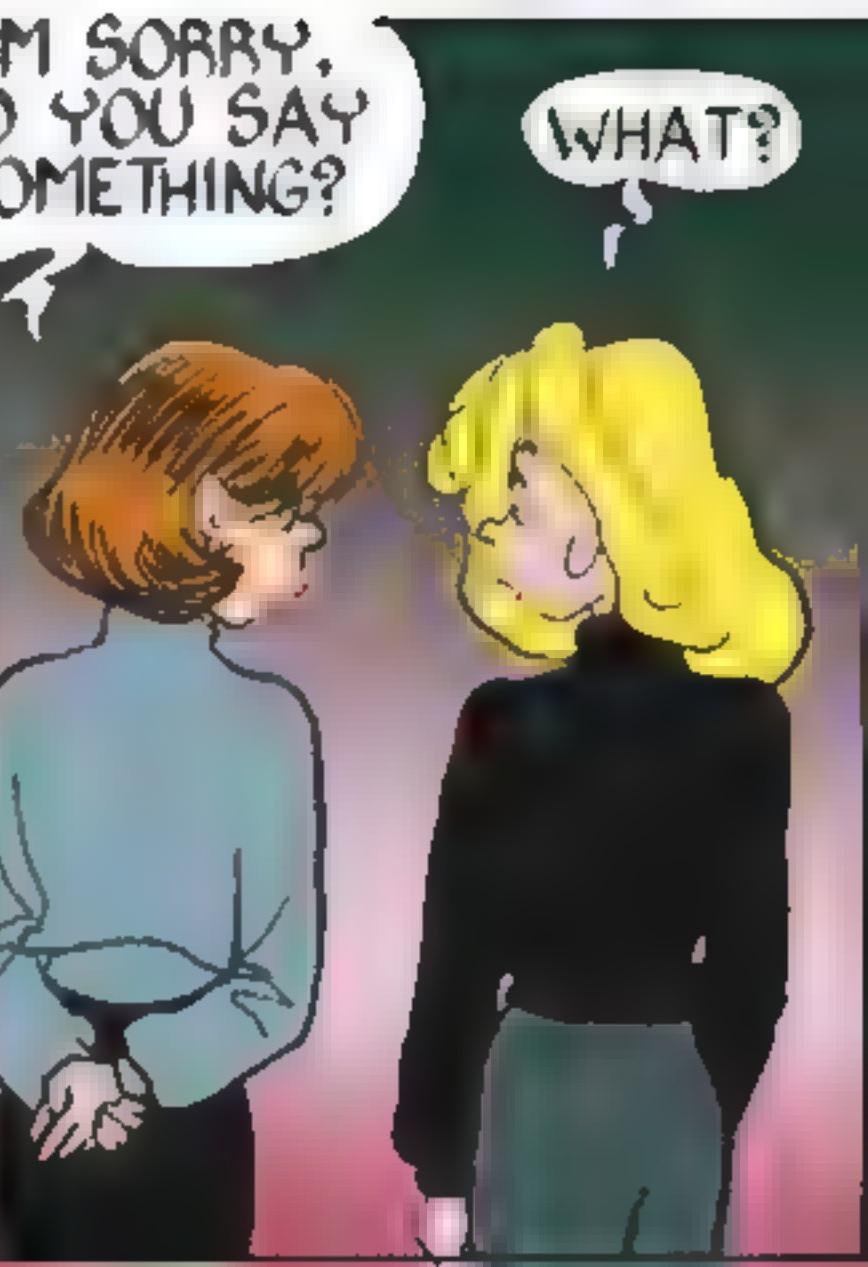
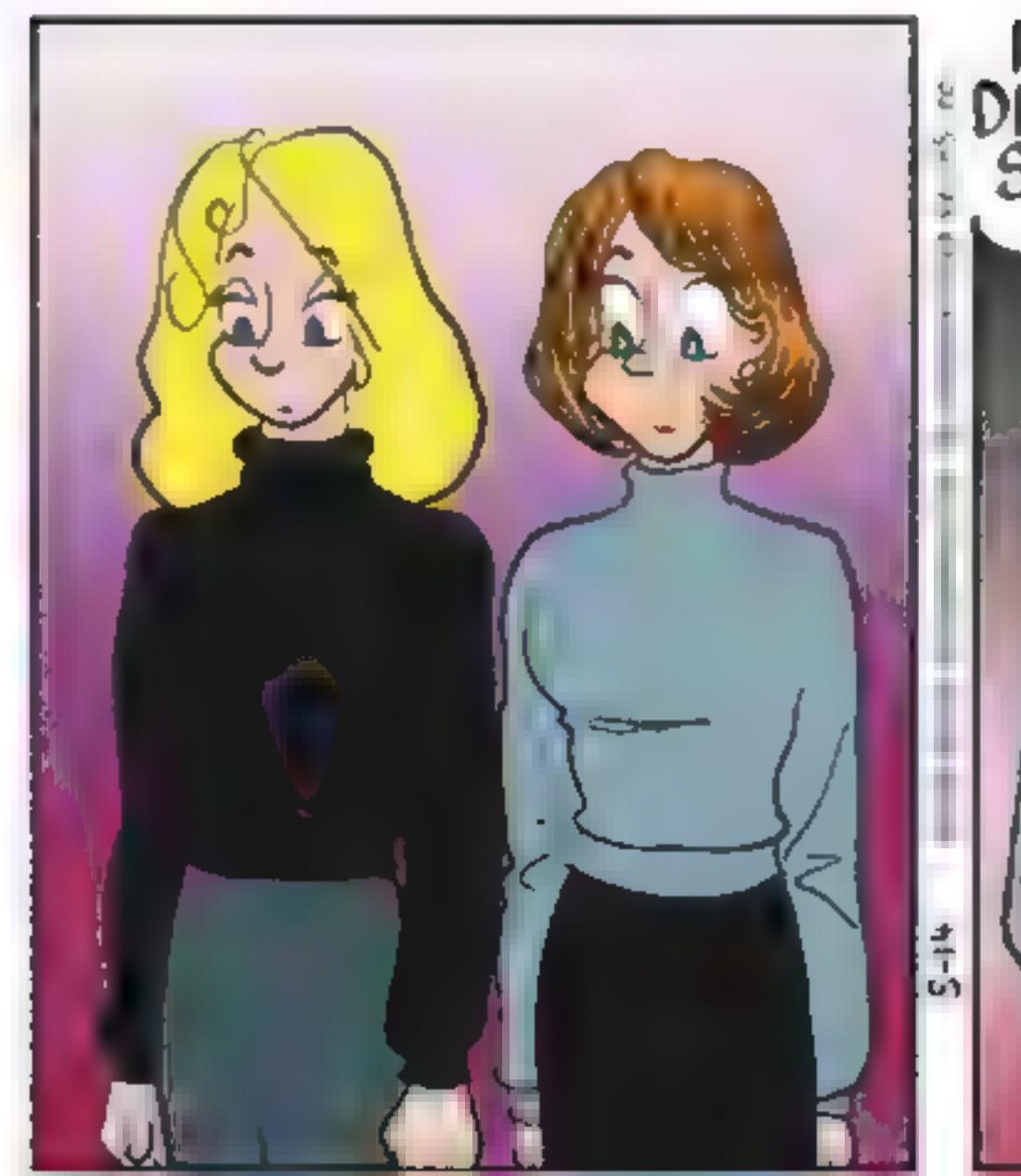
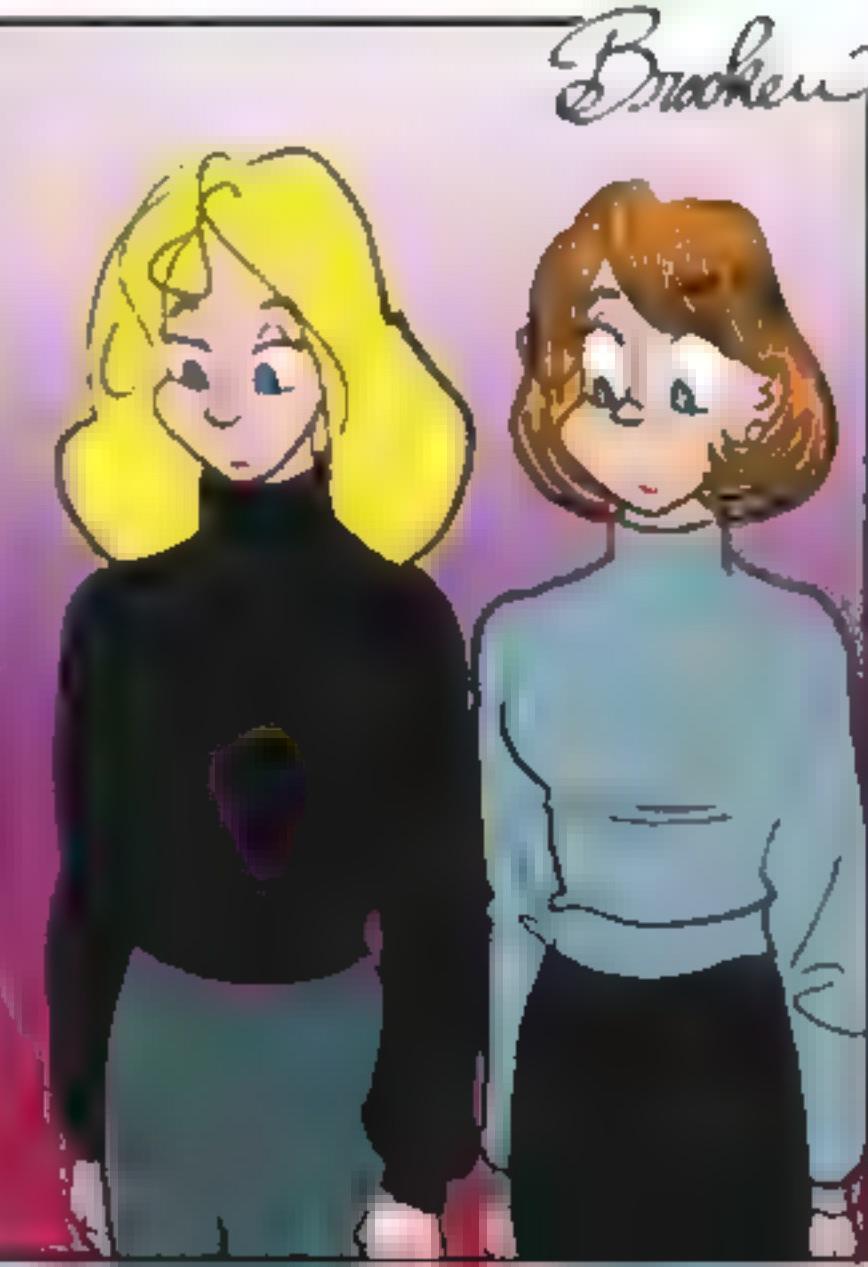
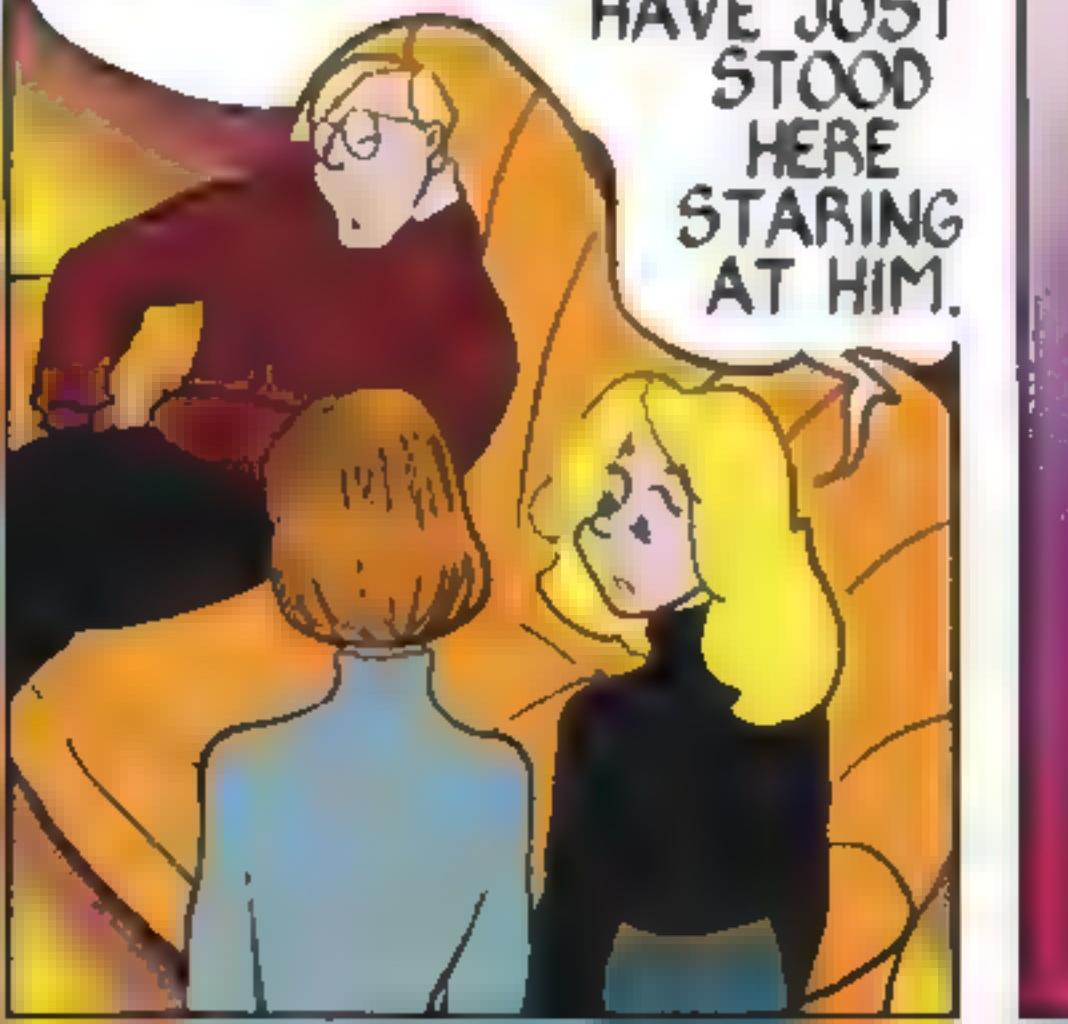
I DID
EXACTLY
THE SAME
THING
WITH
YOUR
MOM
AND HER
JACKS
WHEN
SHE WAS
LITTLE.

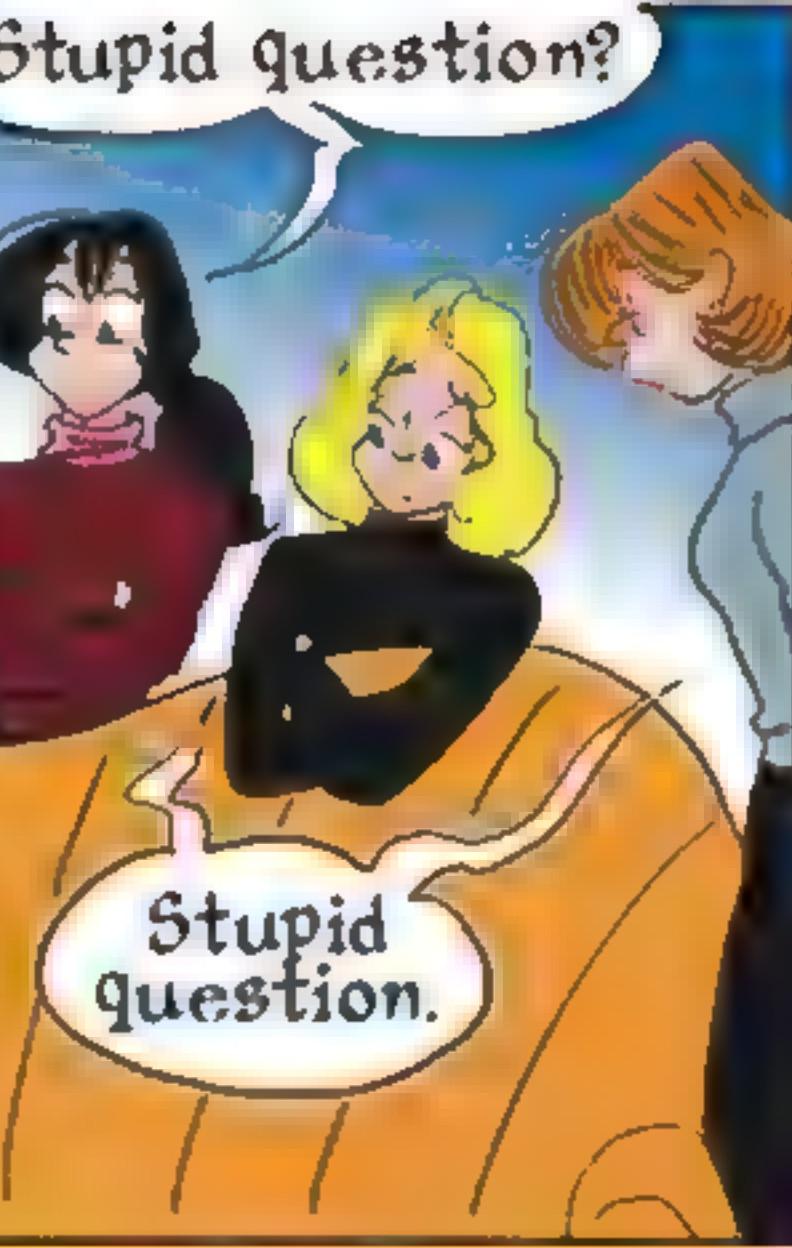
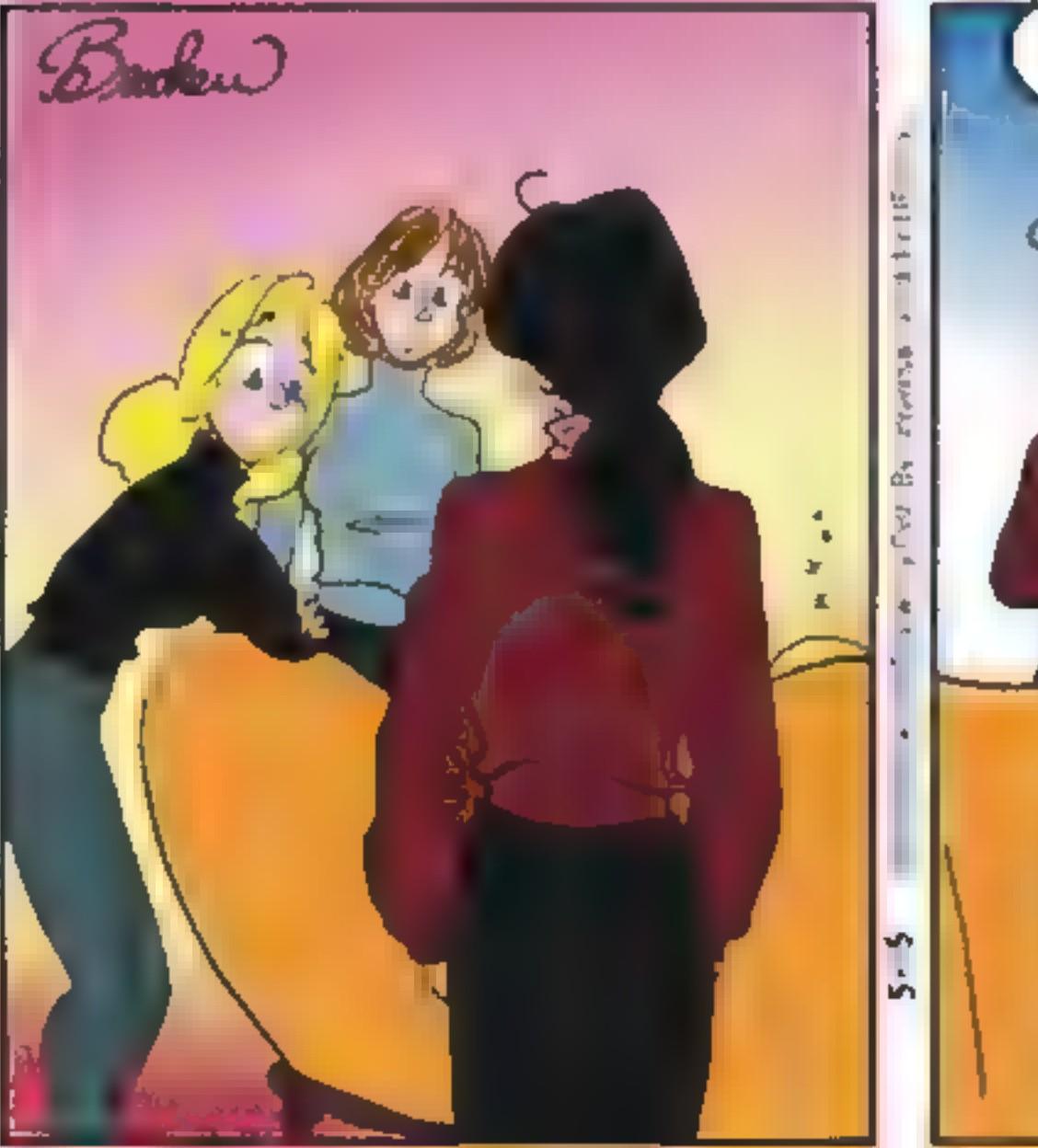


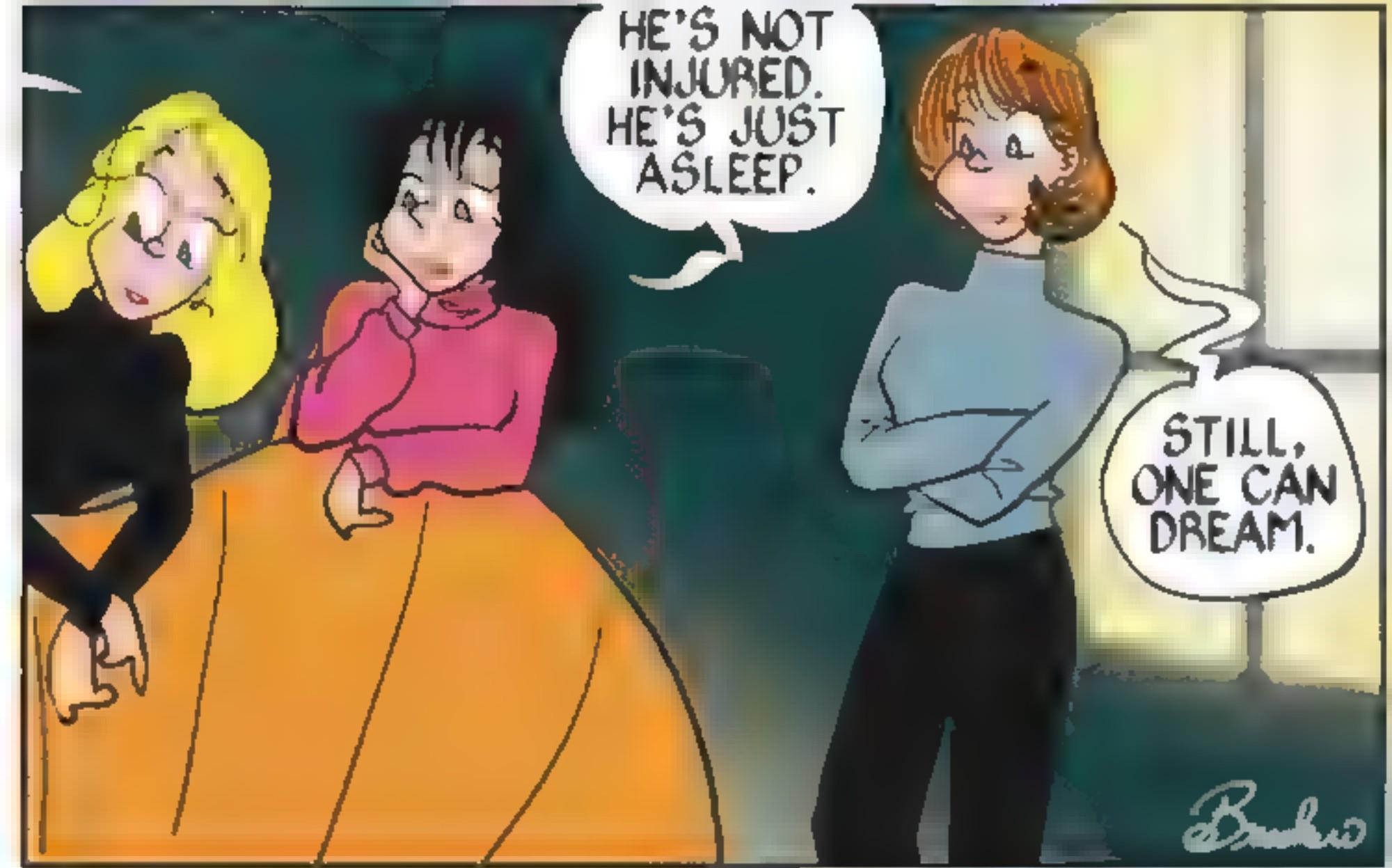
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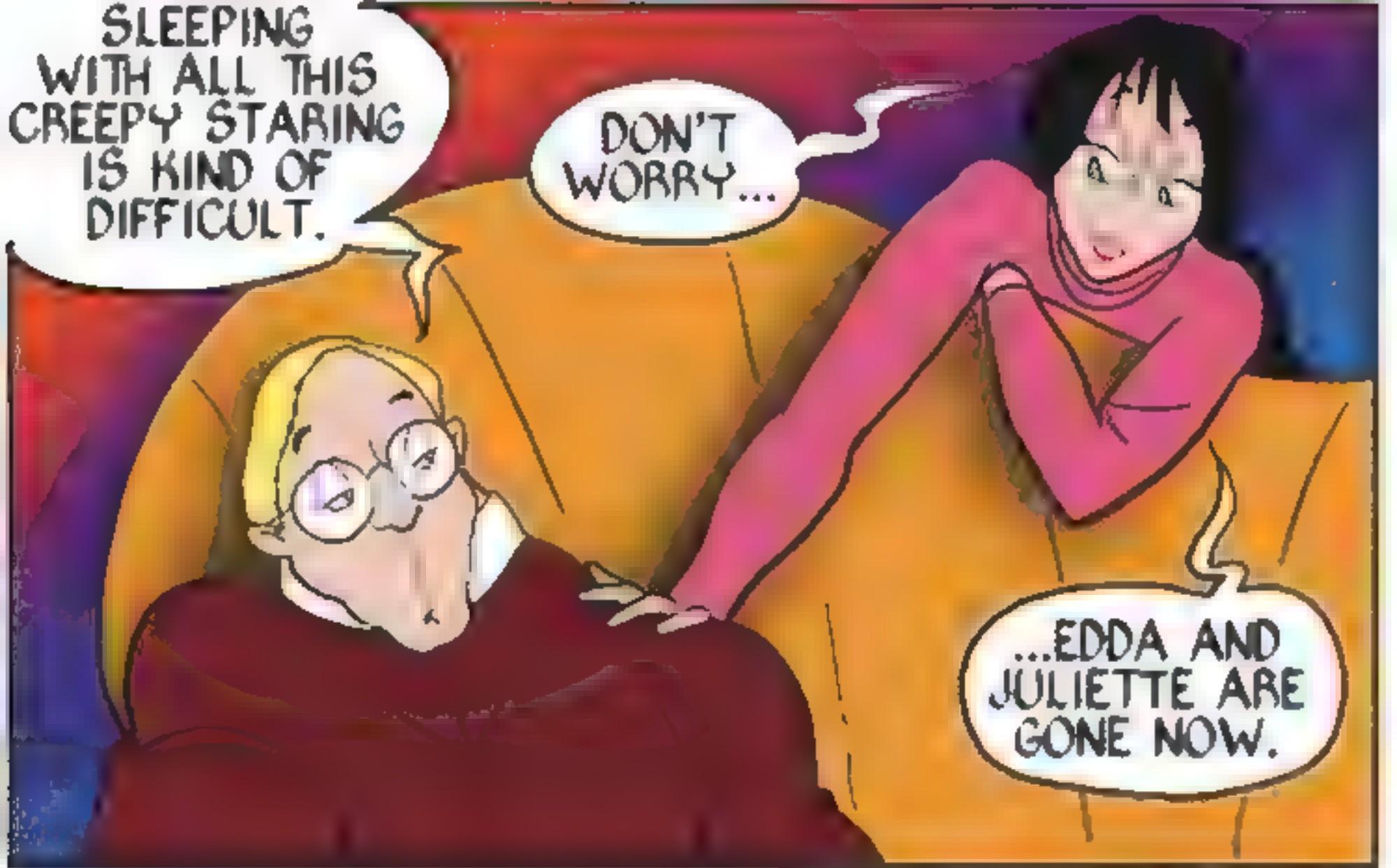


THERE WAS A TIME WHEN, IF WE HAD FOUND SVEN ASLEEP ON THE COUCH, WE WOULD HAVE JUST STOOD HERE STARING AT HIM.

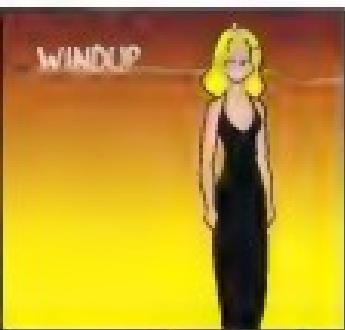




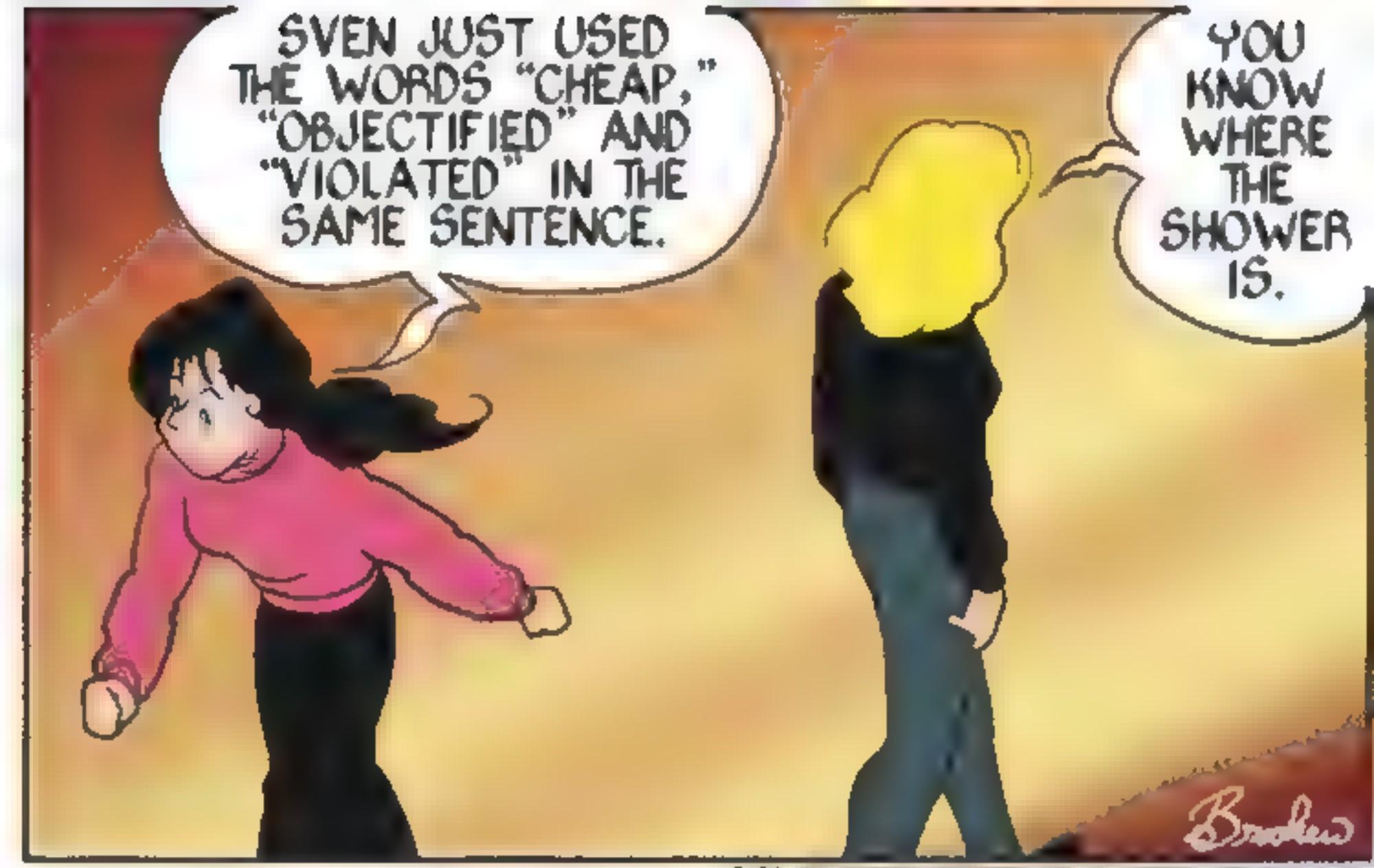








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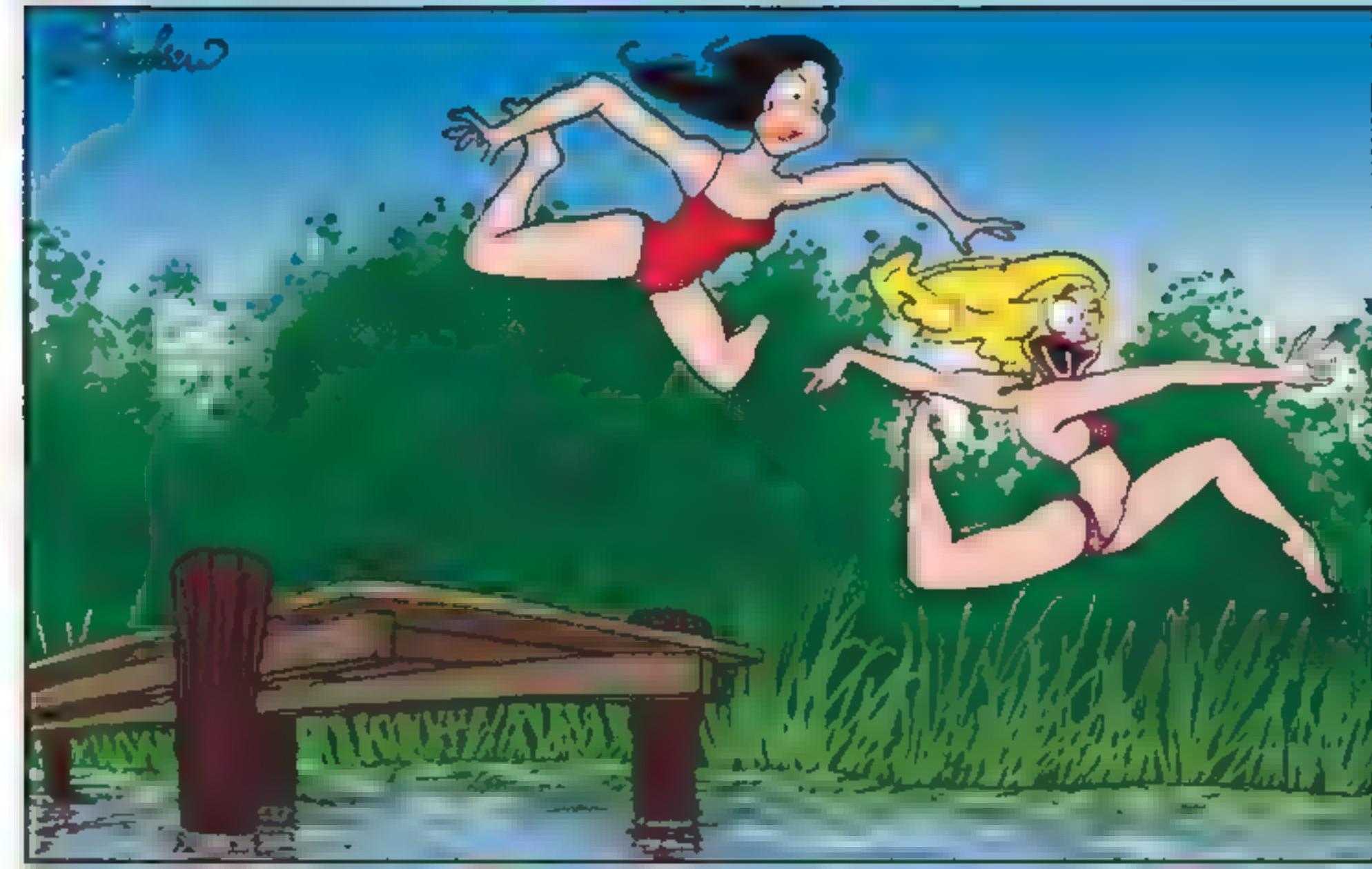
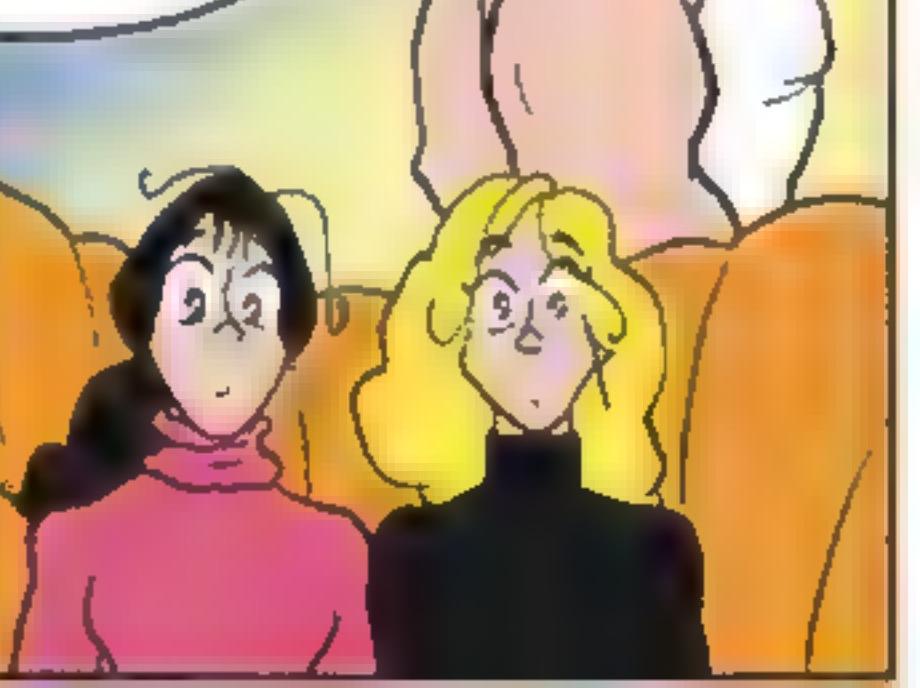


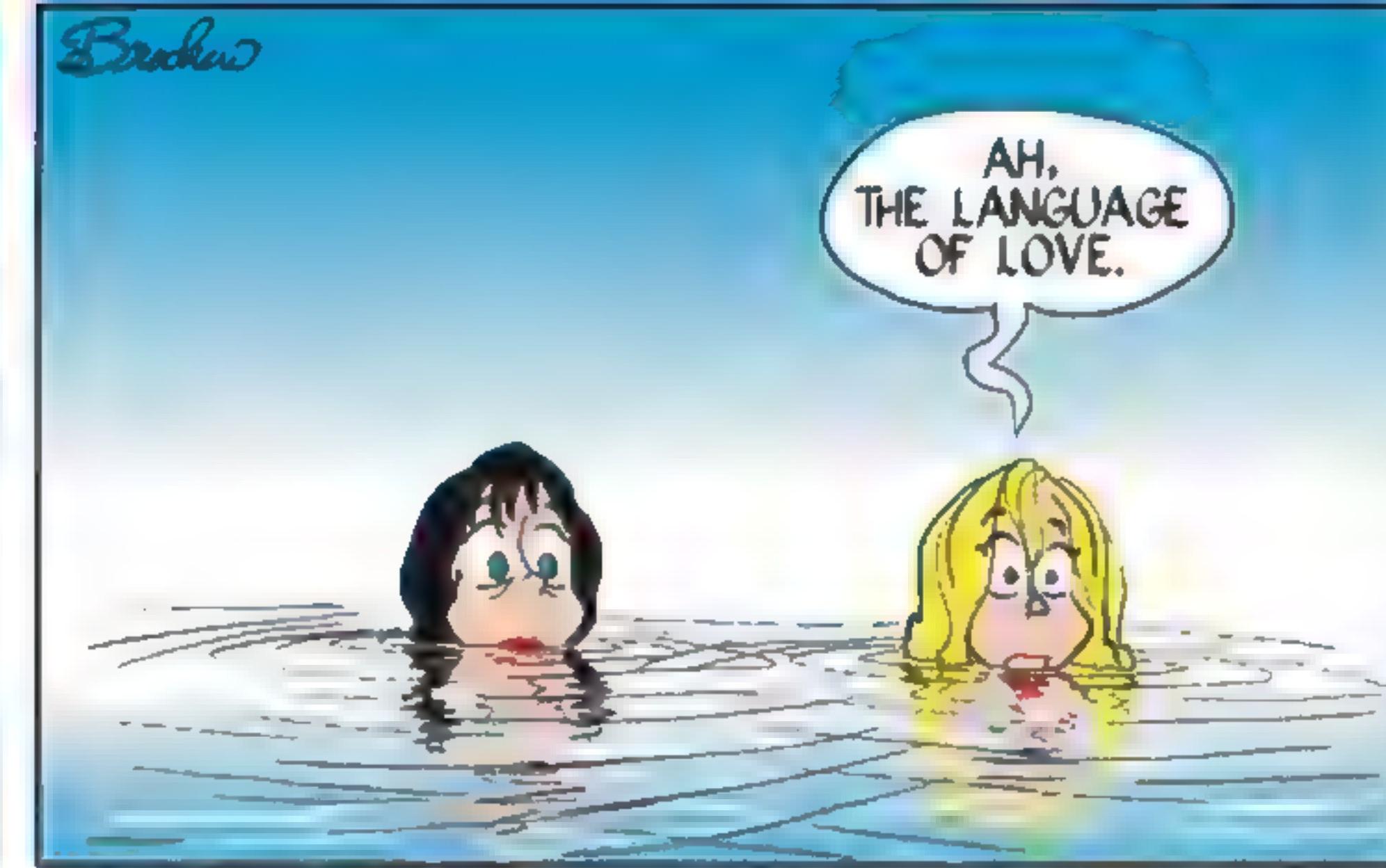
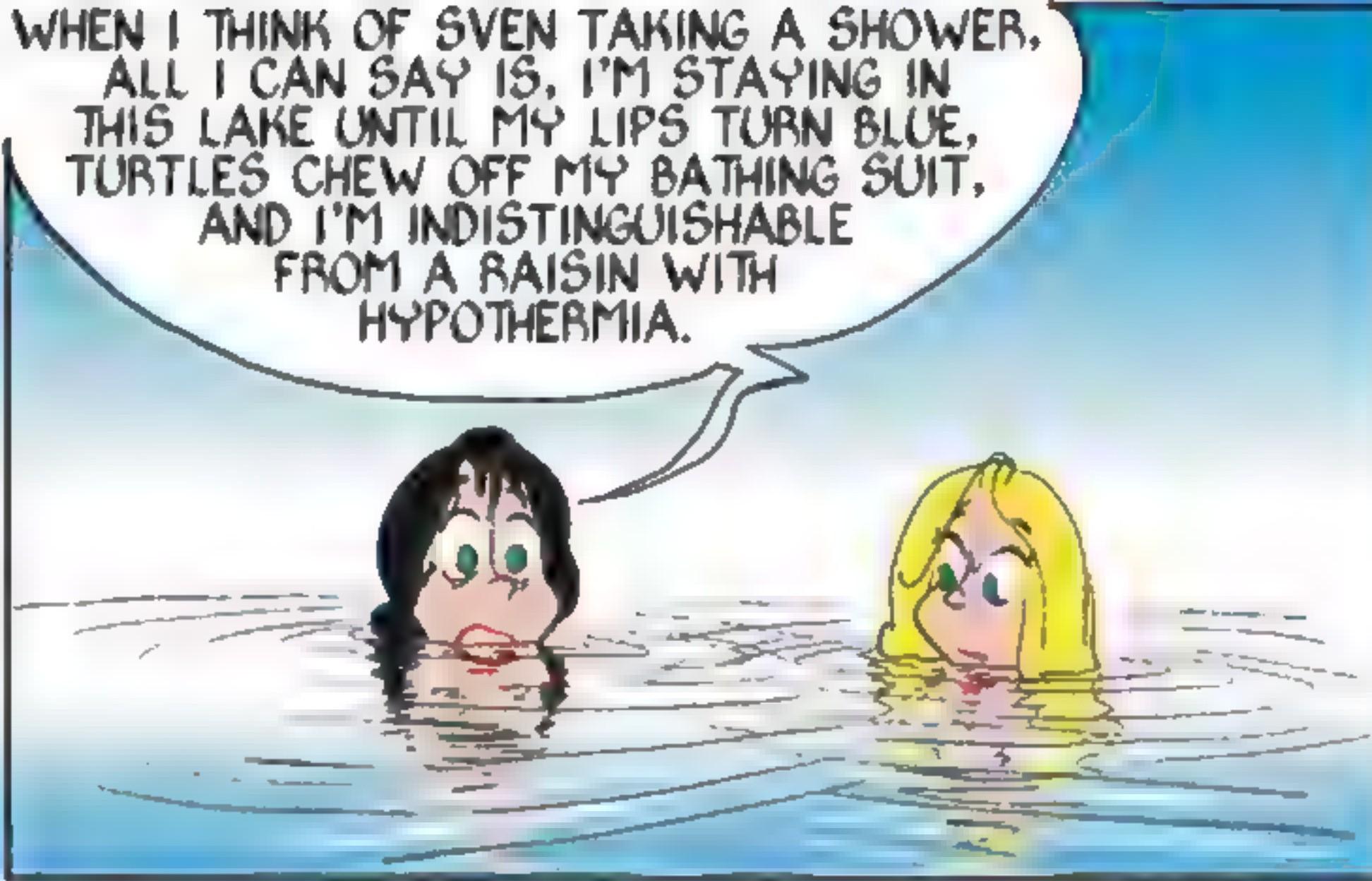


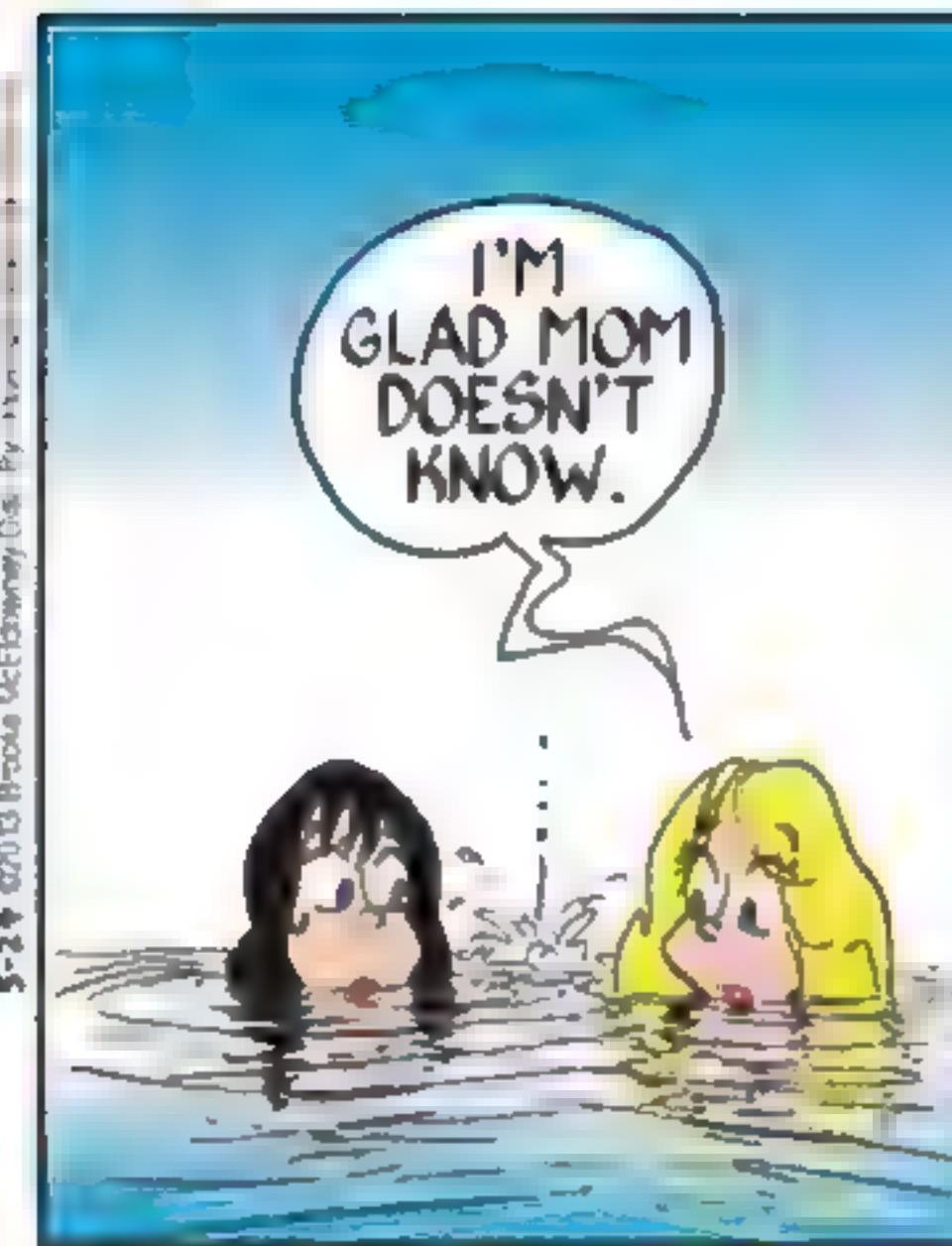
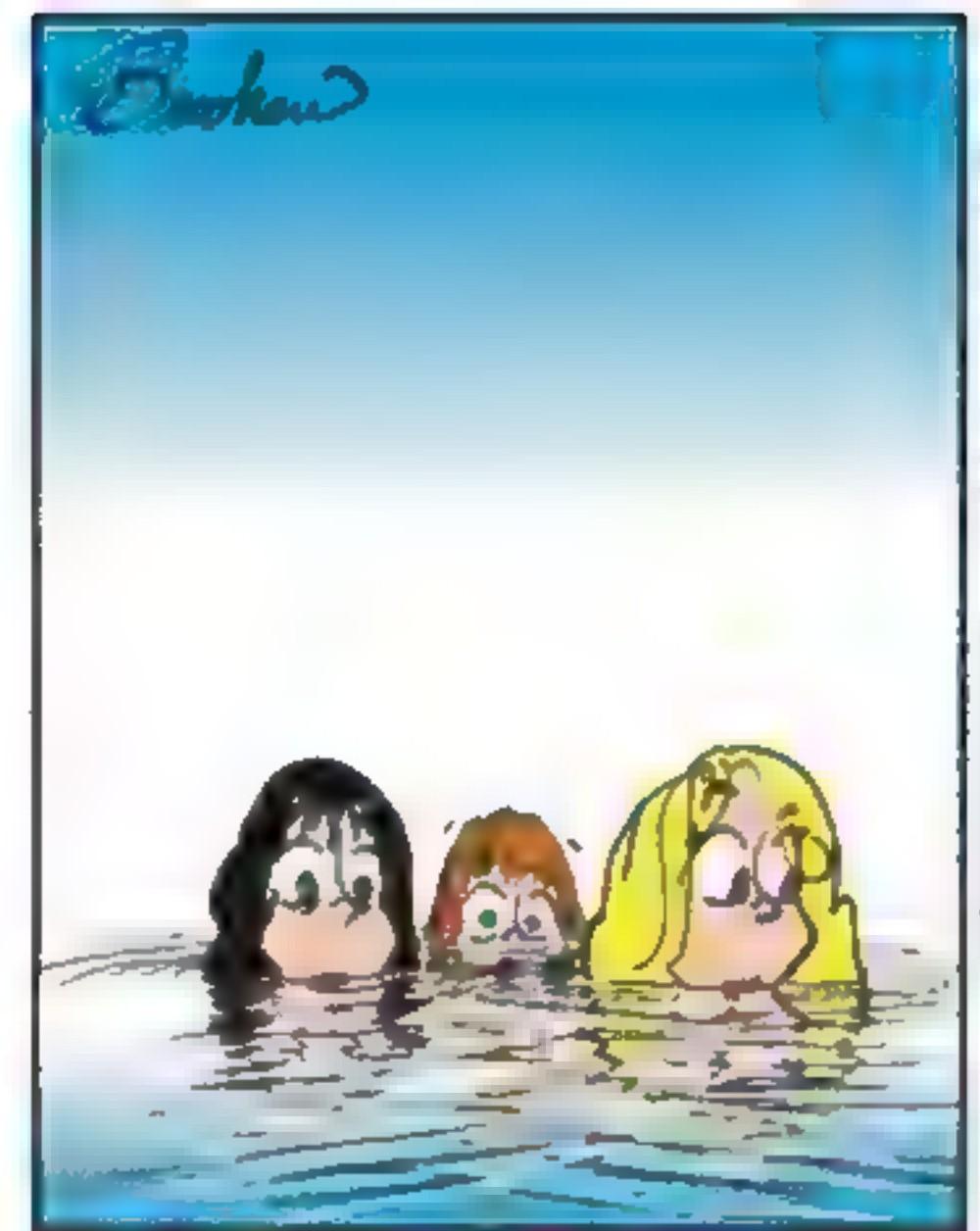
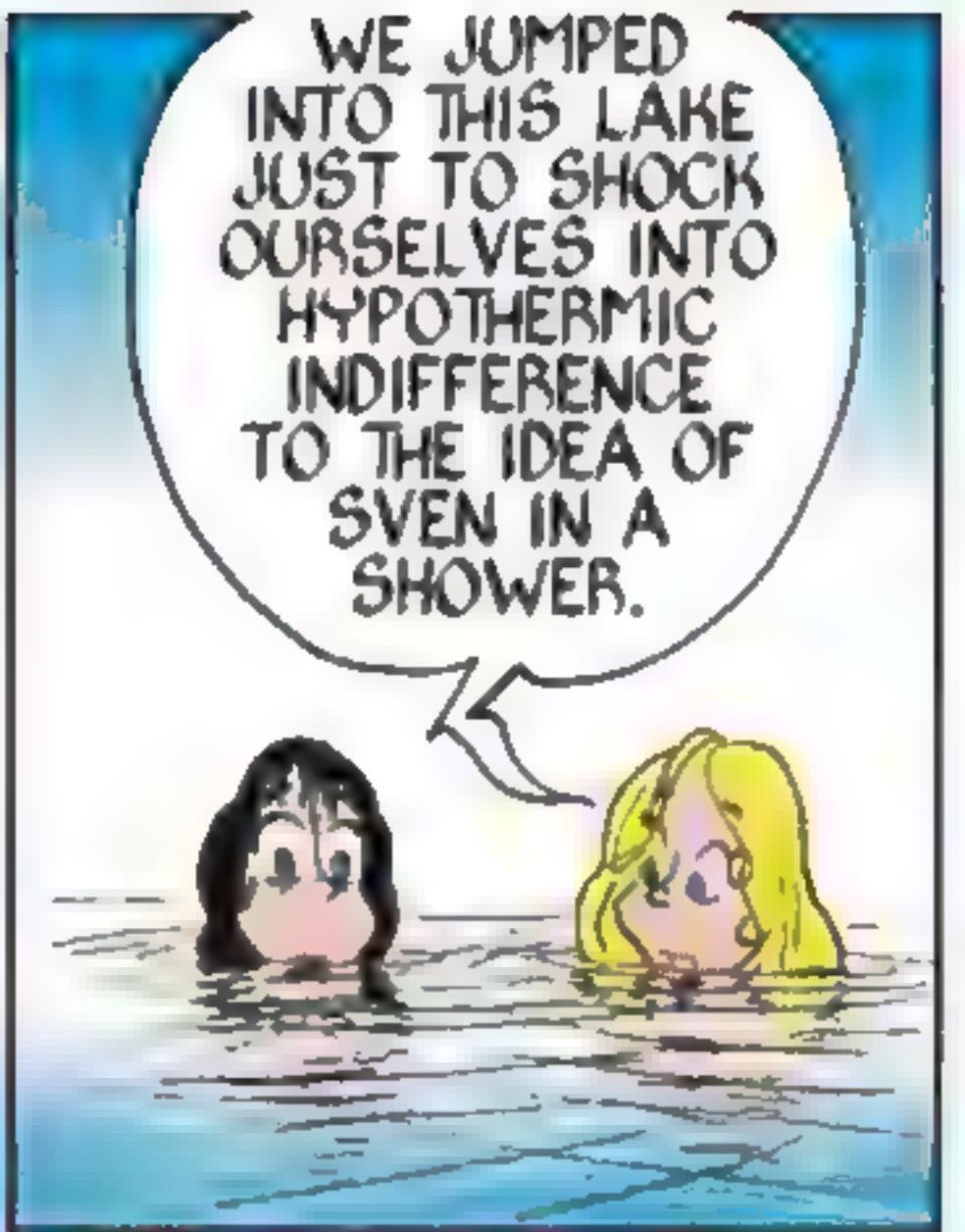
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU
START FEELING "DISTRACTED"
BY SVEN, INSTEAD OF TAKING
A COLD SHOWER, YOU COULD
JUST TAKE A PLUNGE IN OUR
LAKE. THIS TIME OF YEAR
IT'S GLACIAL.



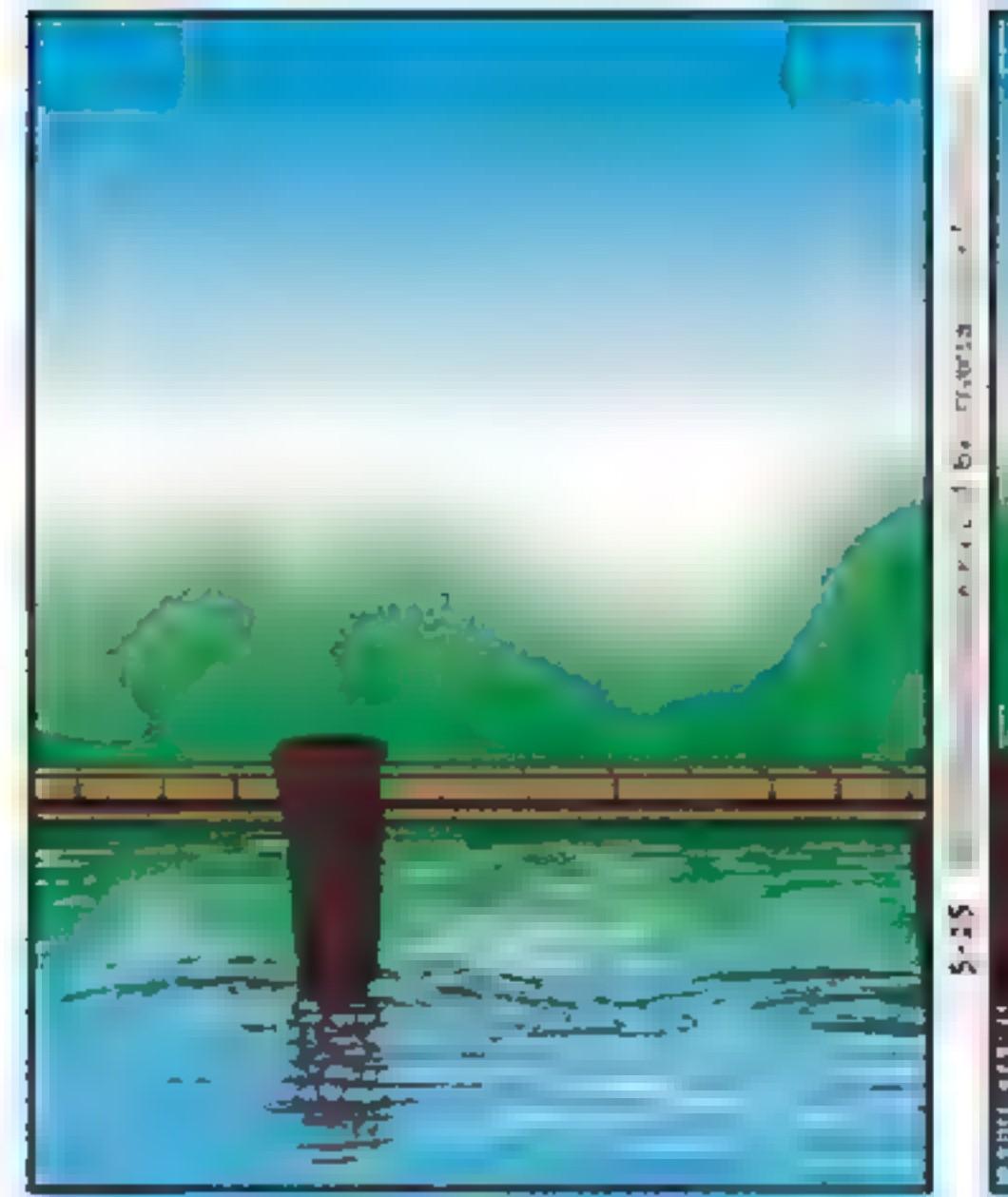
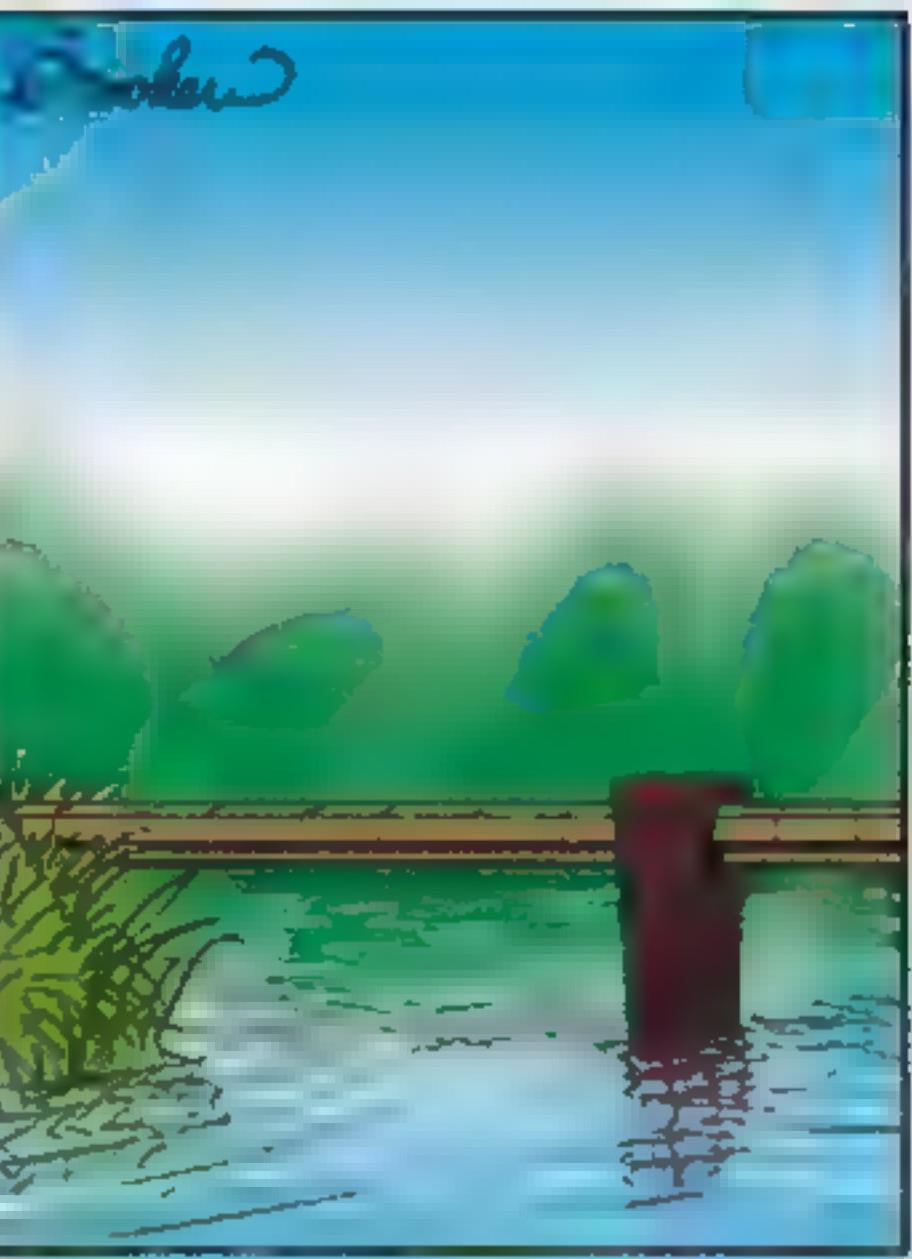
DID I HEAR
SOMEONE SAY
THE SHOWER'S
AVAILABLE?
I COULD
REALLY USE
ONE RIGHT
NOW.

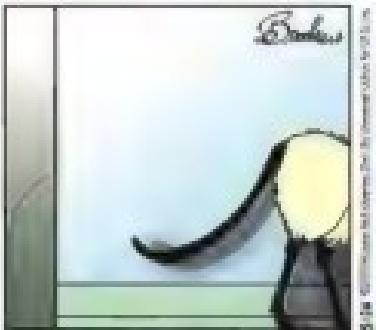
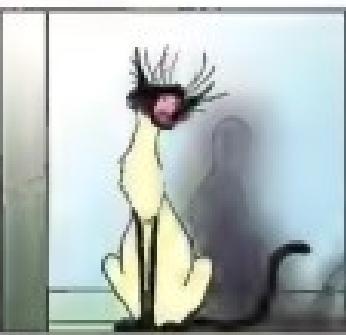
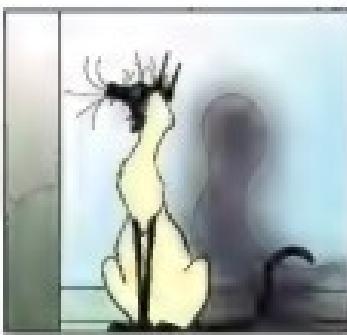




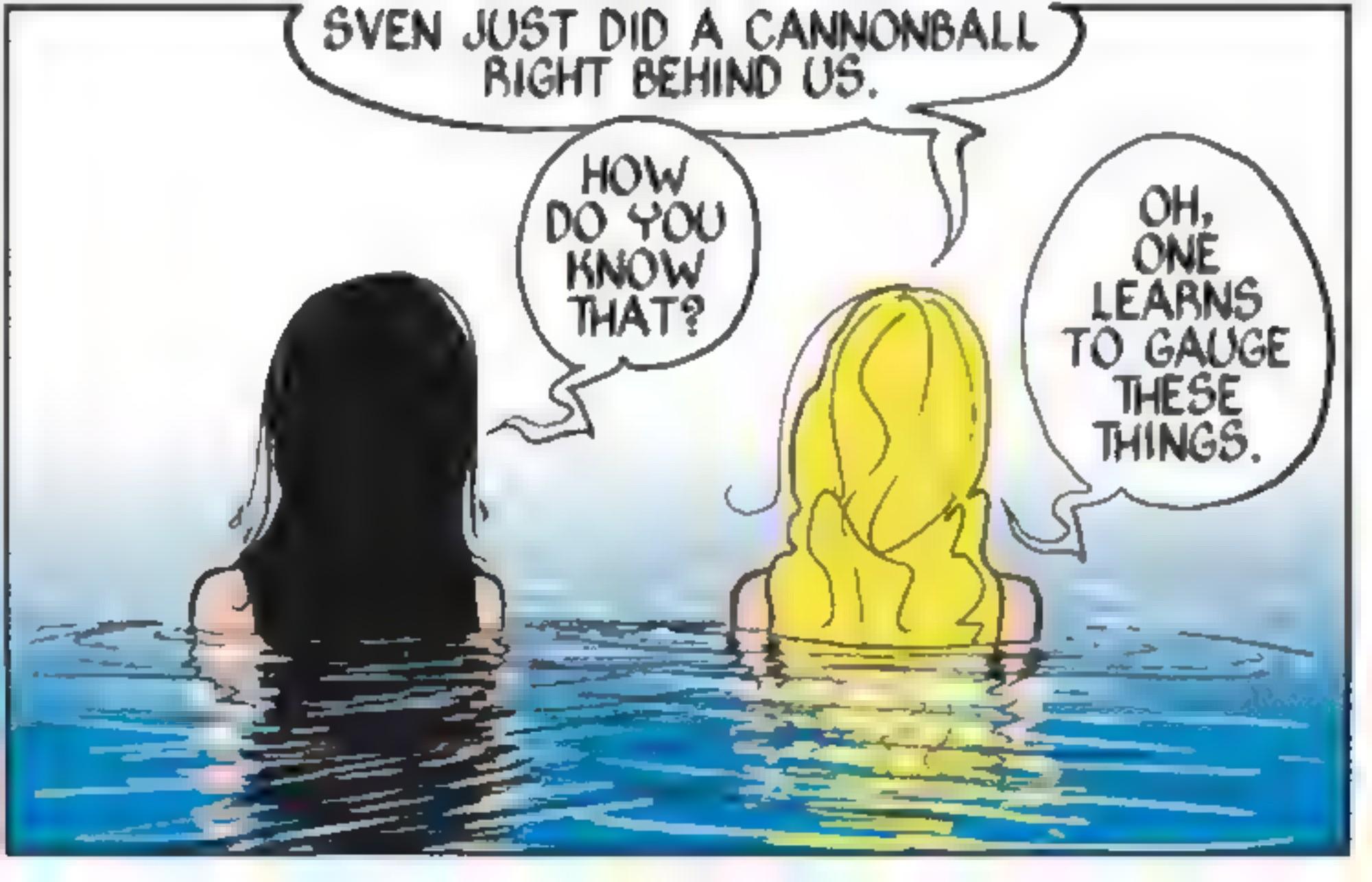


IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO
GET OUT OF THE HOUSE
AND TAKE A PLUNGE IN
THIS LAKE. IT MADE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE.





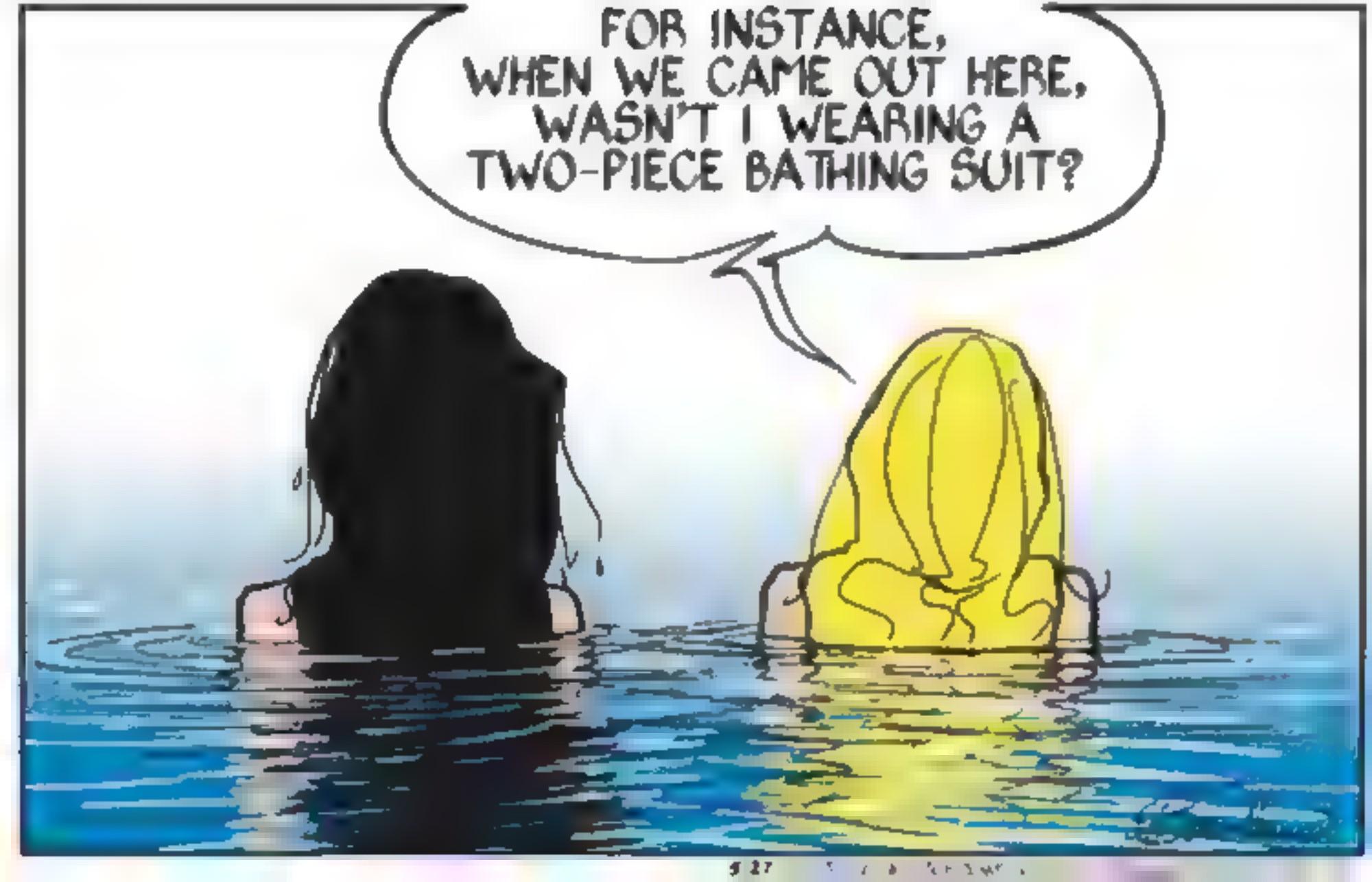
An undisclosed source speaking on condition of anonymity.



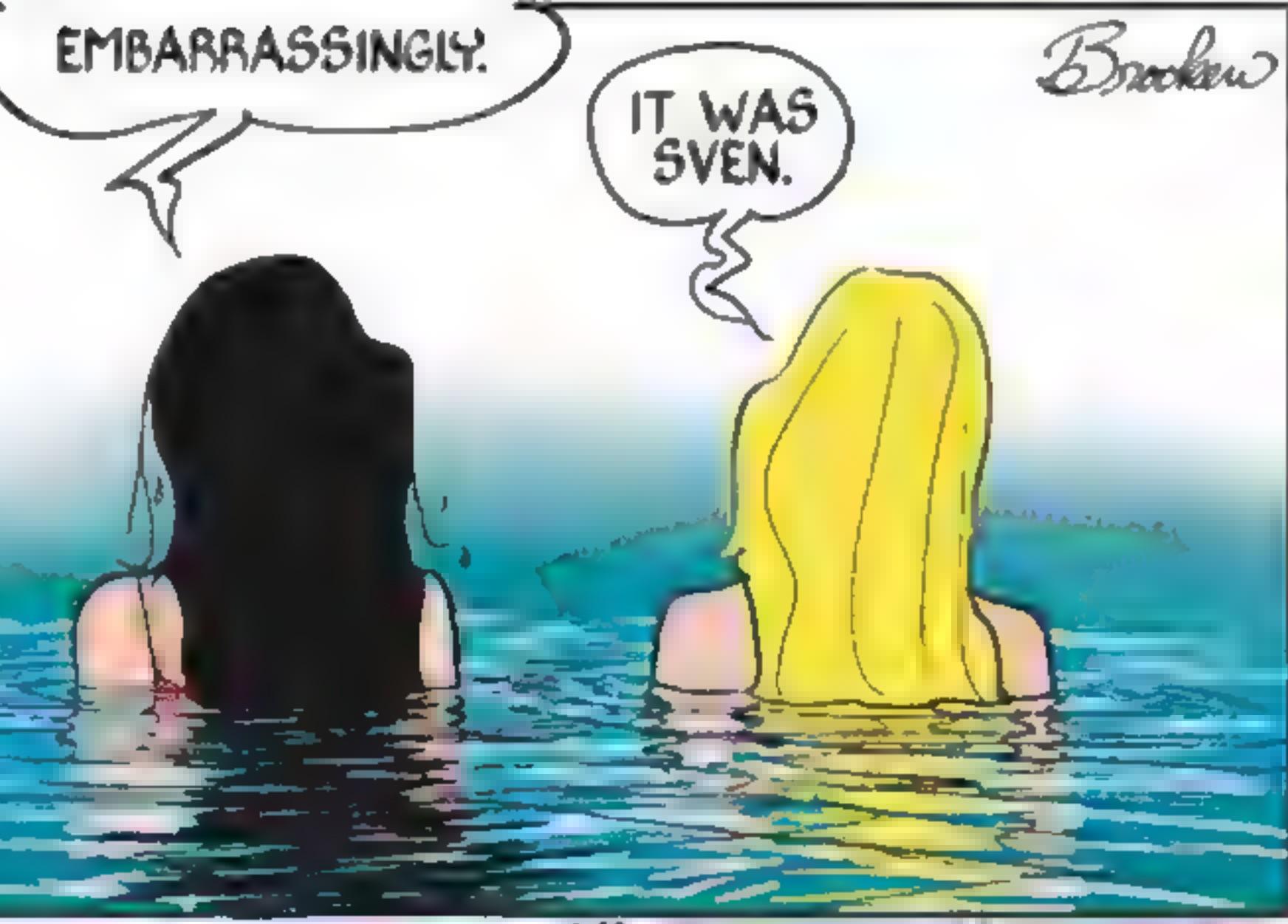
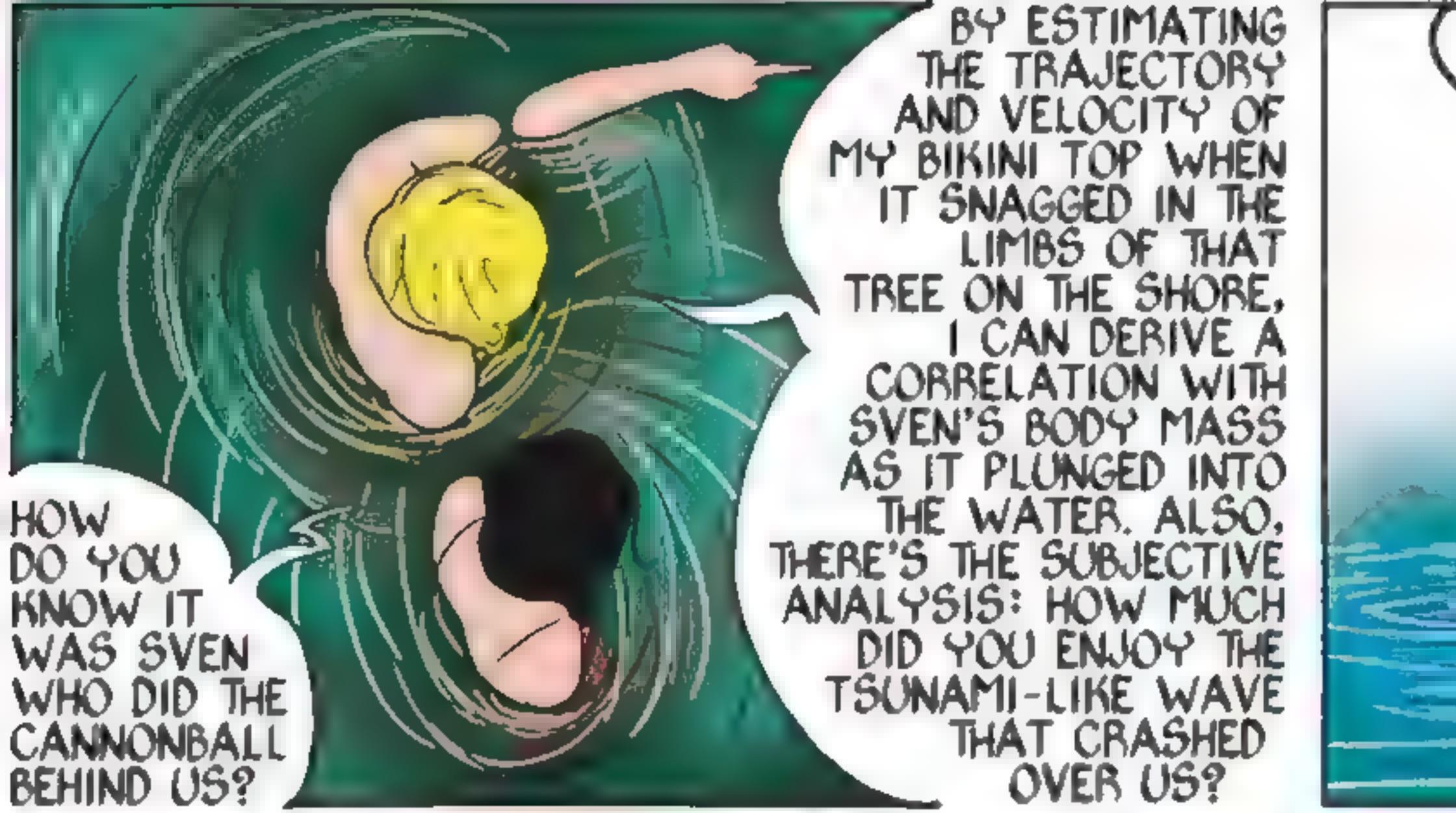
SVEN JUST DID A CANNONBALL
RIGHT BEHIND US.

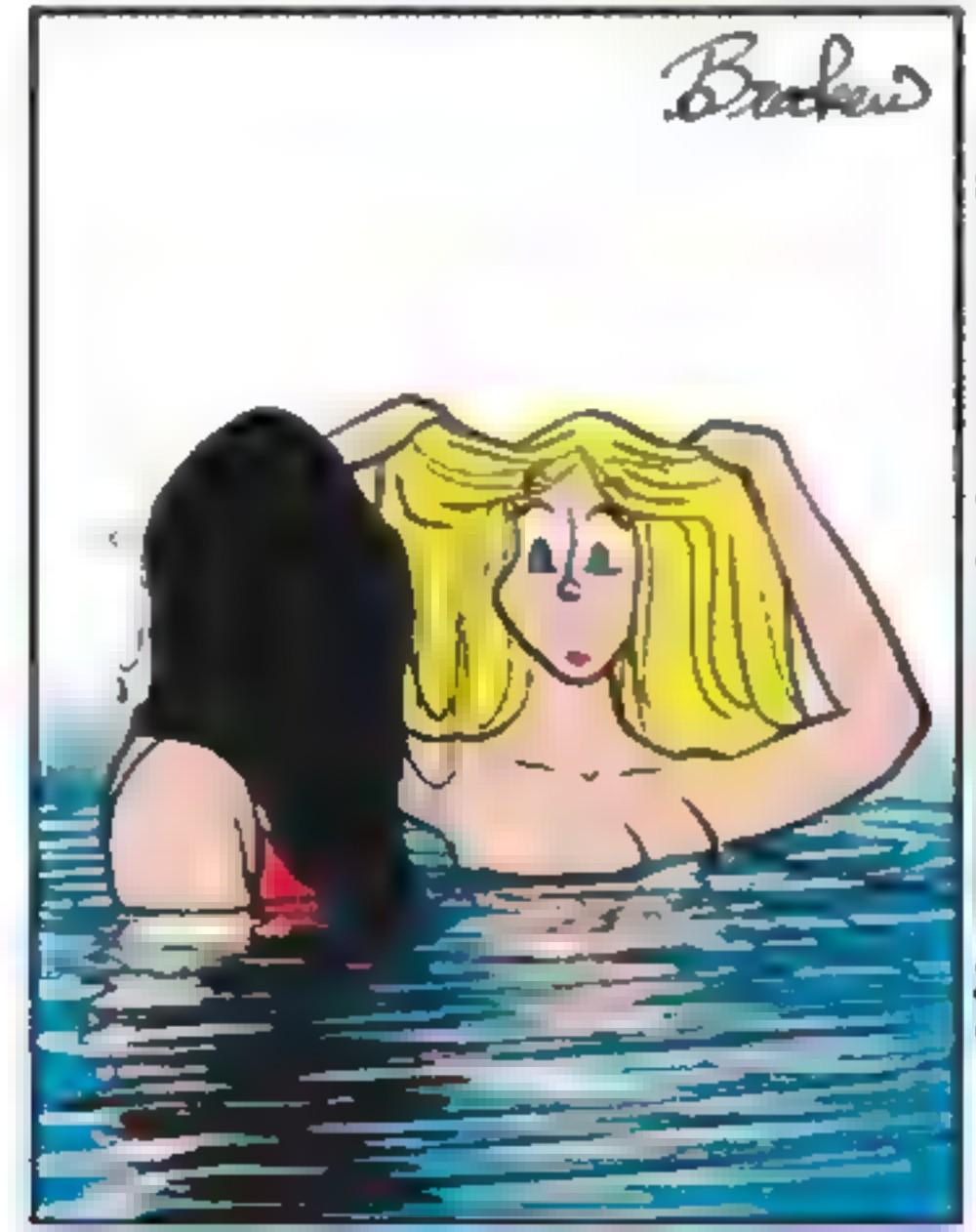
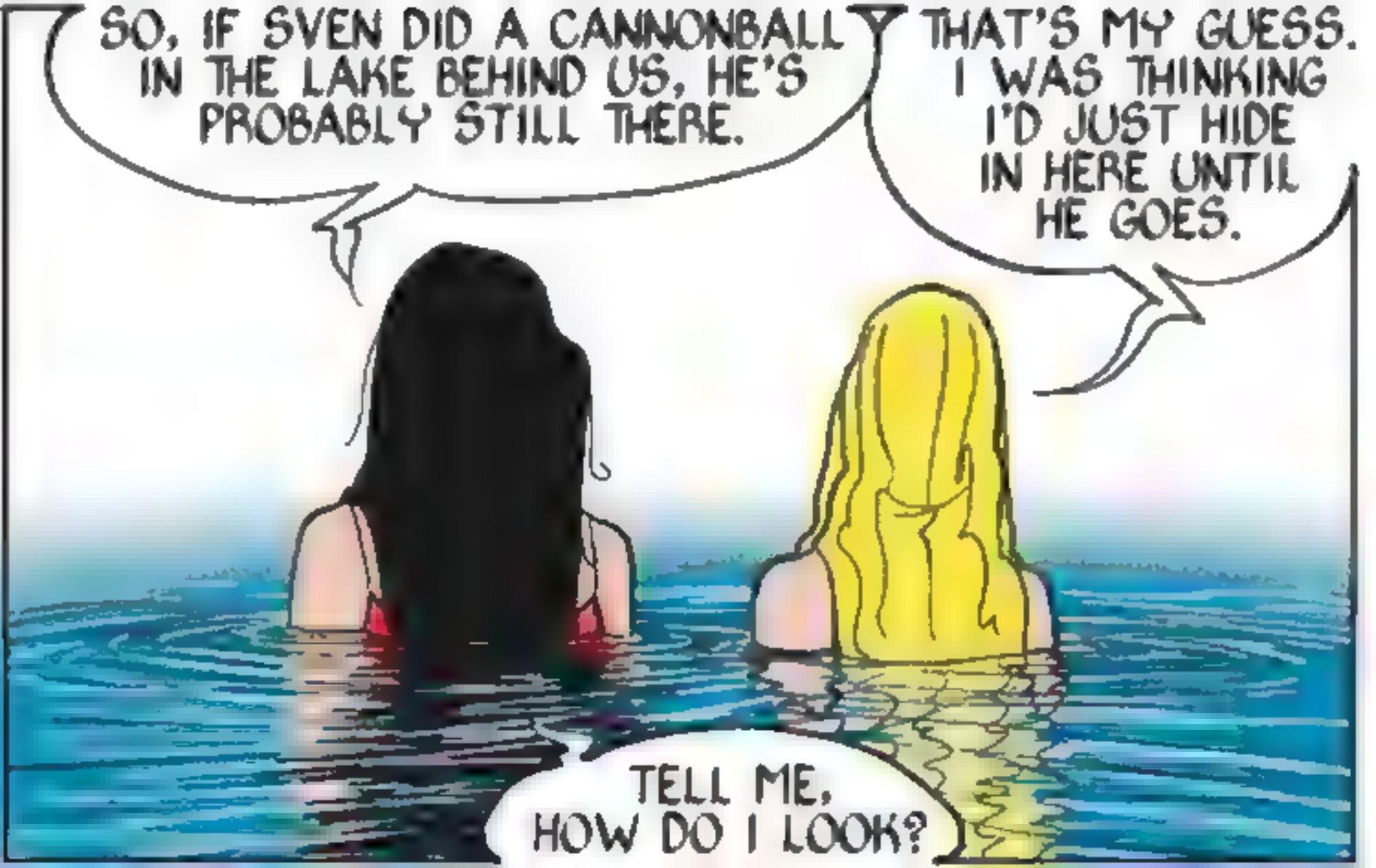
HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
THAT?

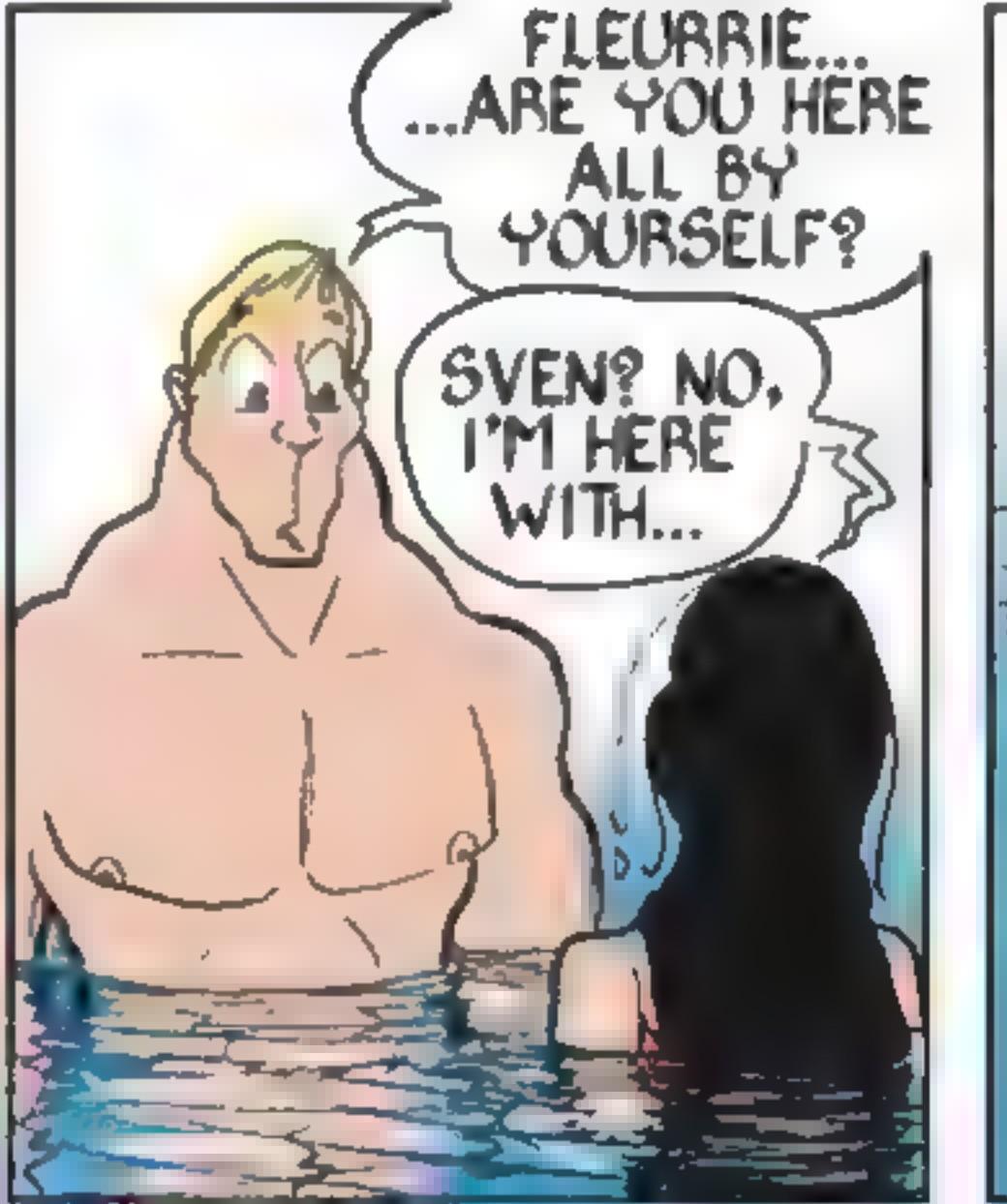
OH,
ONE
LEARNS
TO GAUGE
THESE
THINGS.



FOR INSTANCE,
WHEN WE CAME OUT HERE,
WASN'T I WEARING A
TWO-PIECE BATHING SUIT?

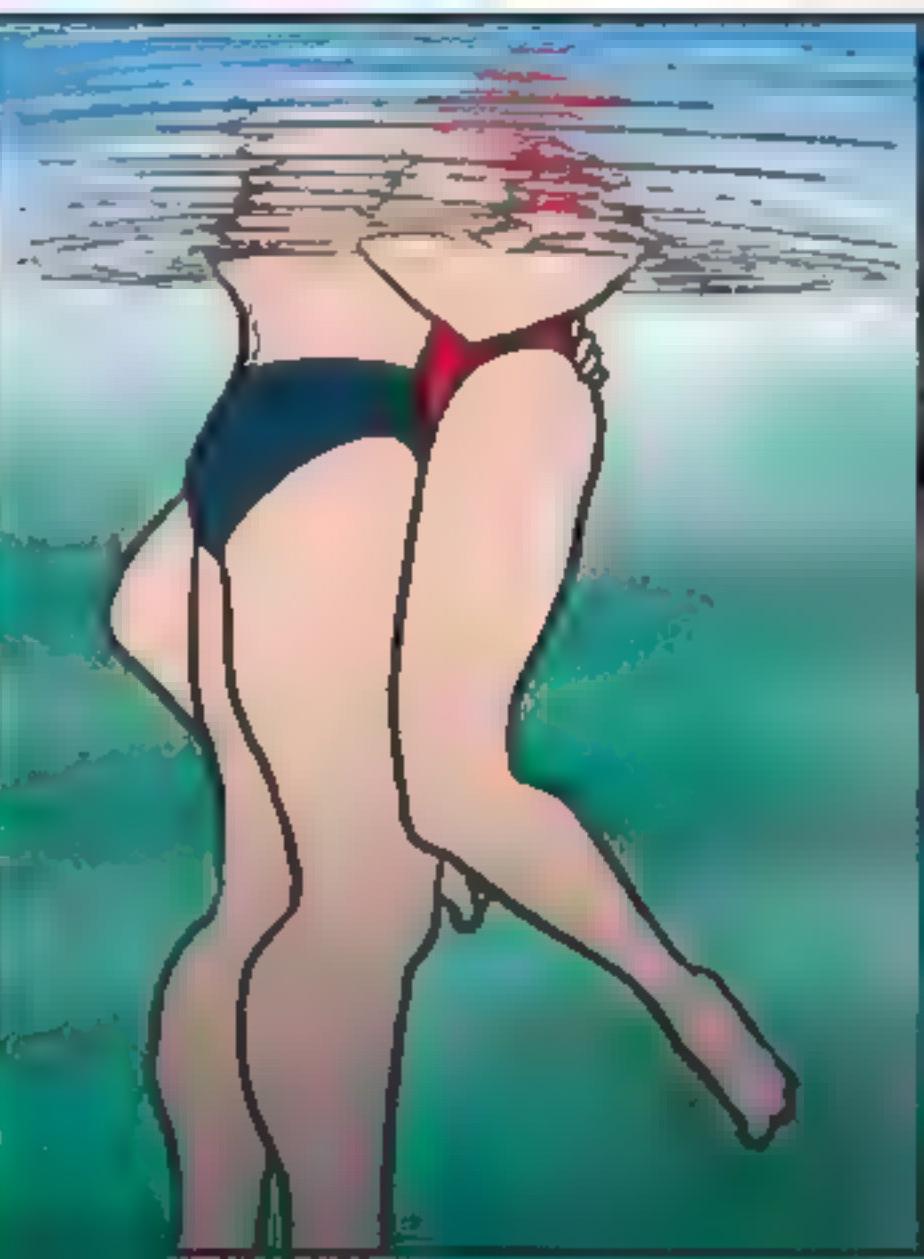
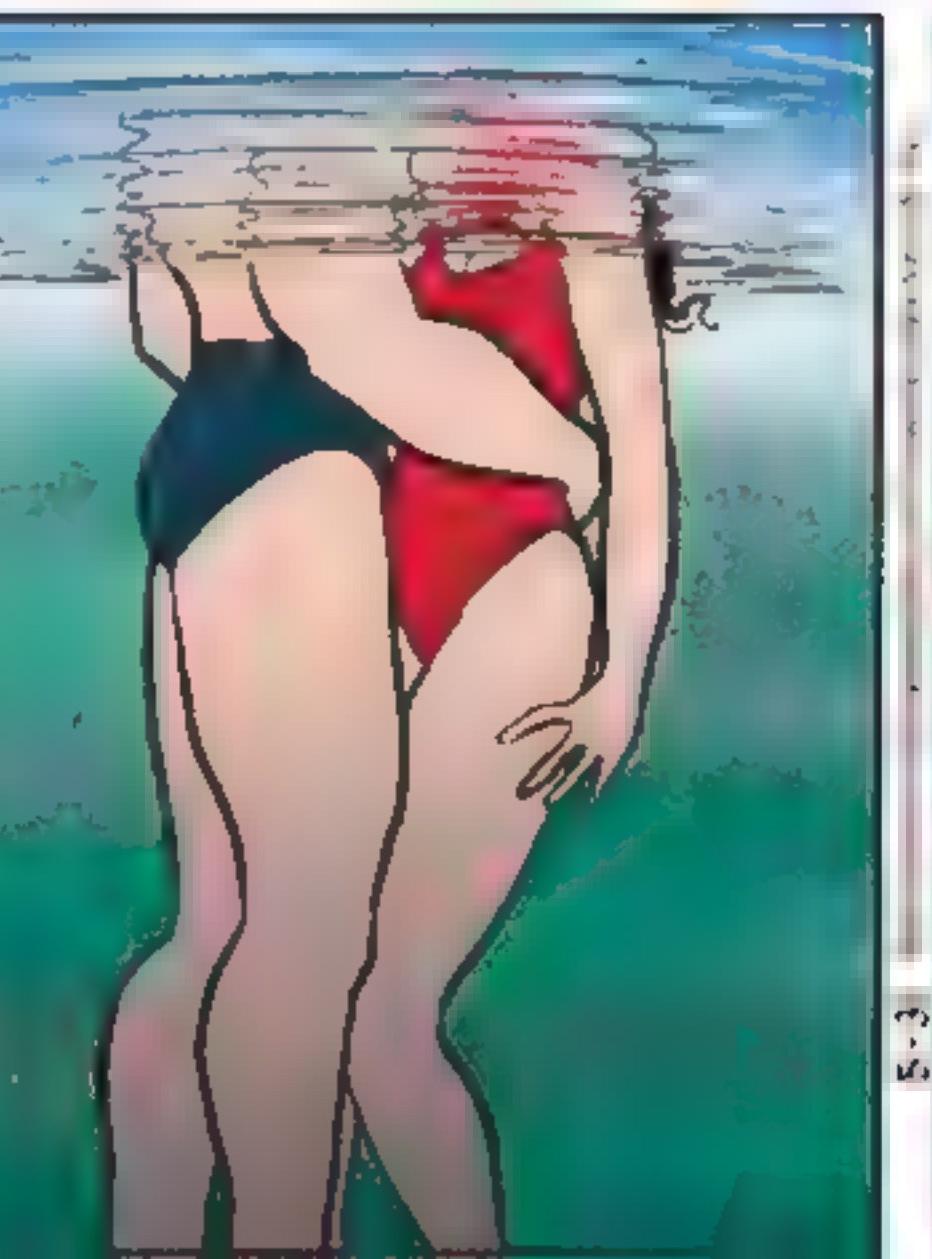
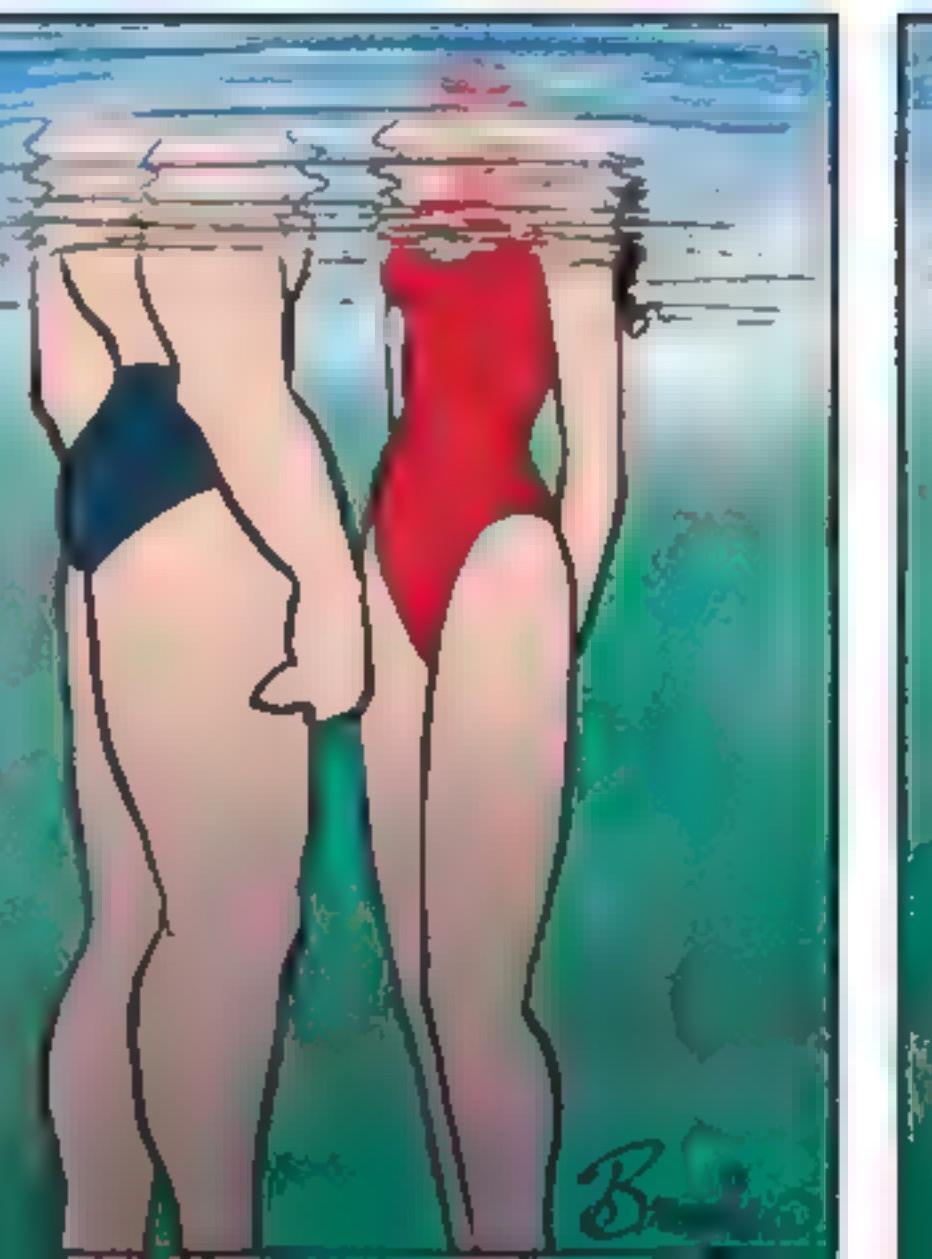
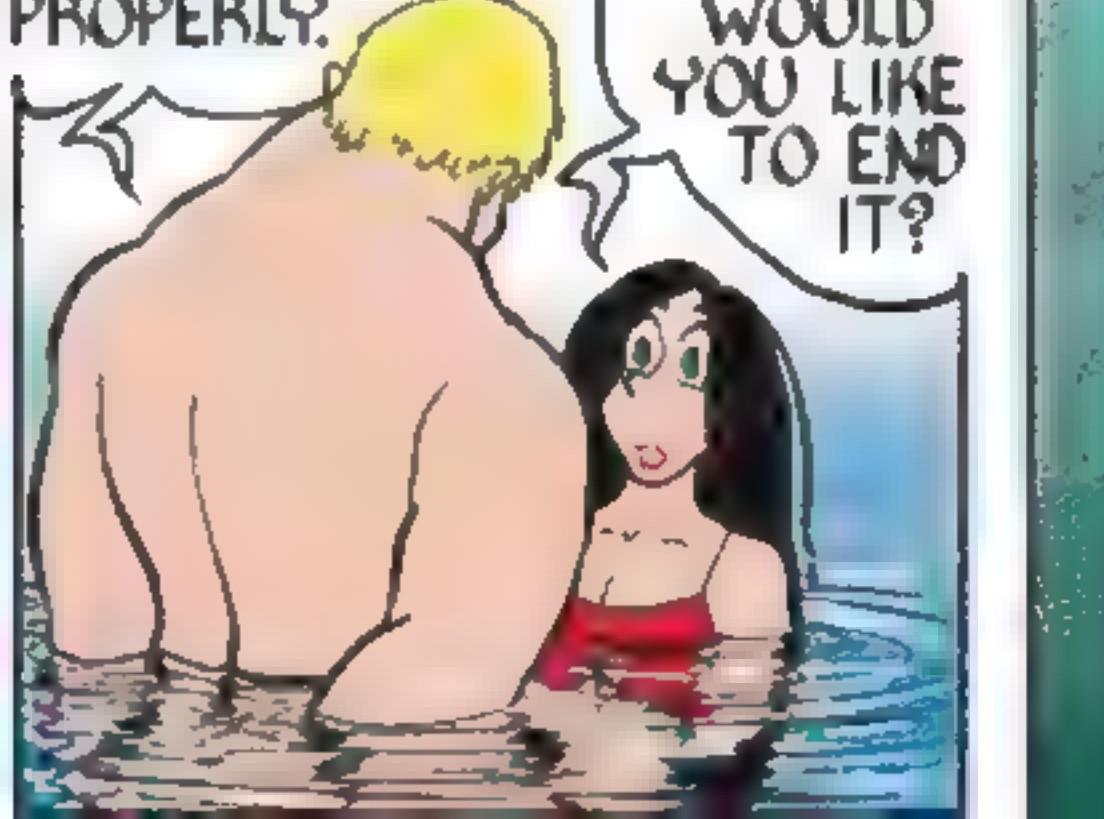


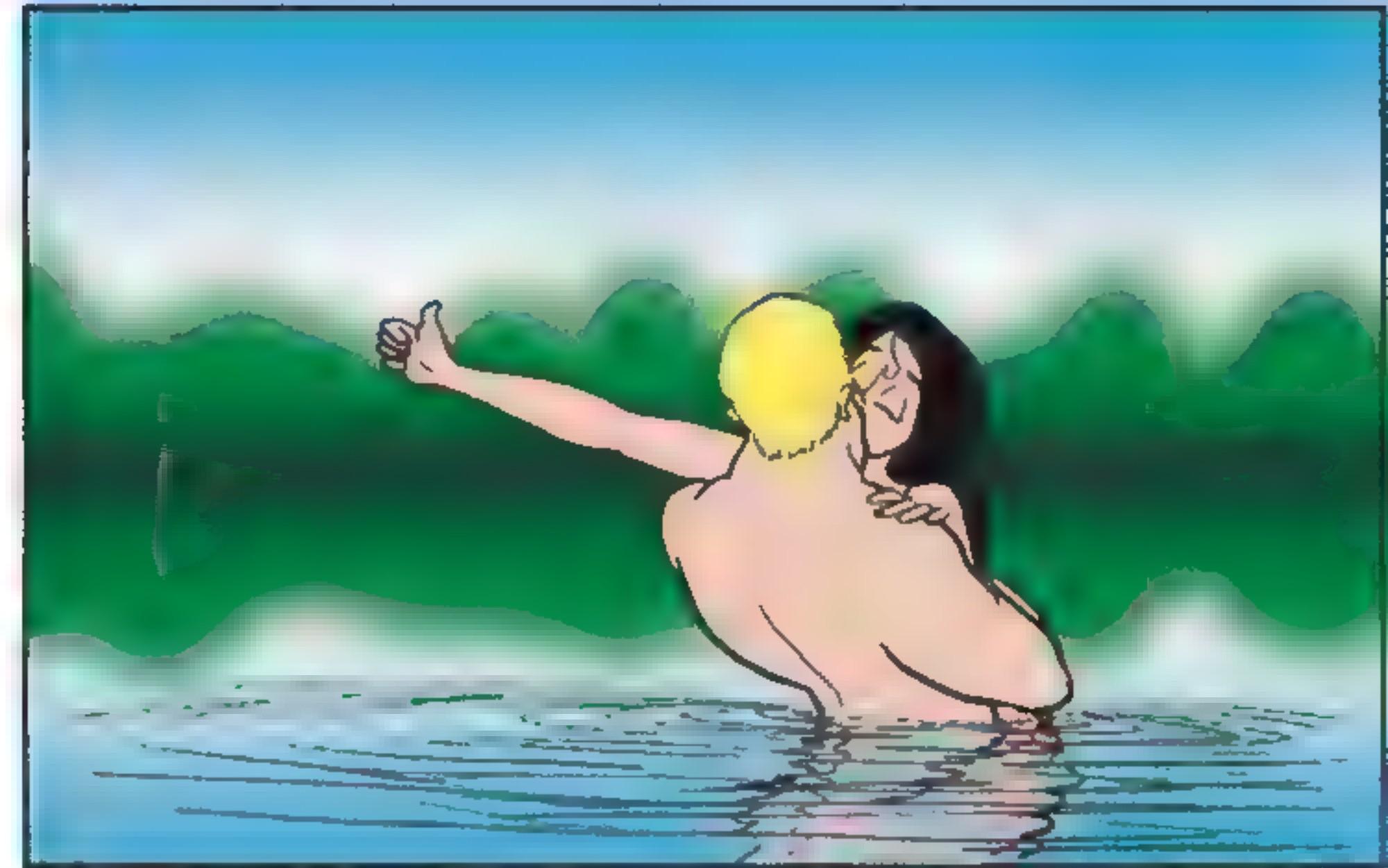
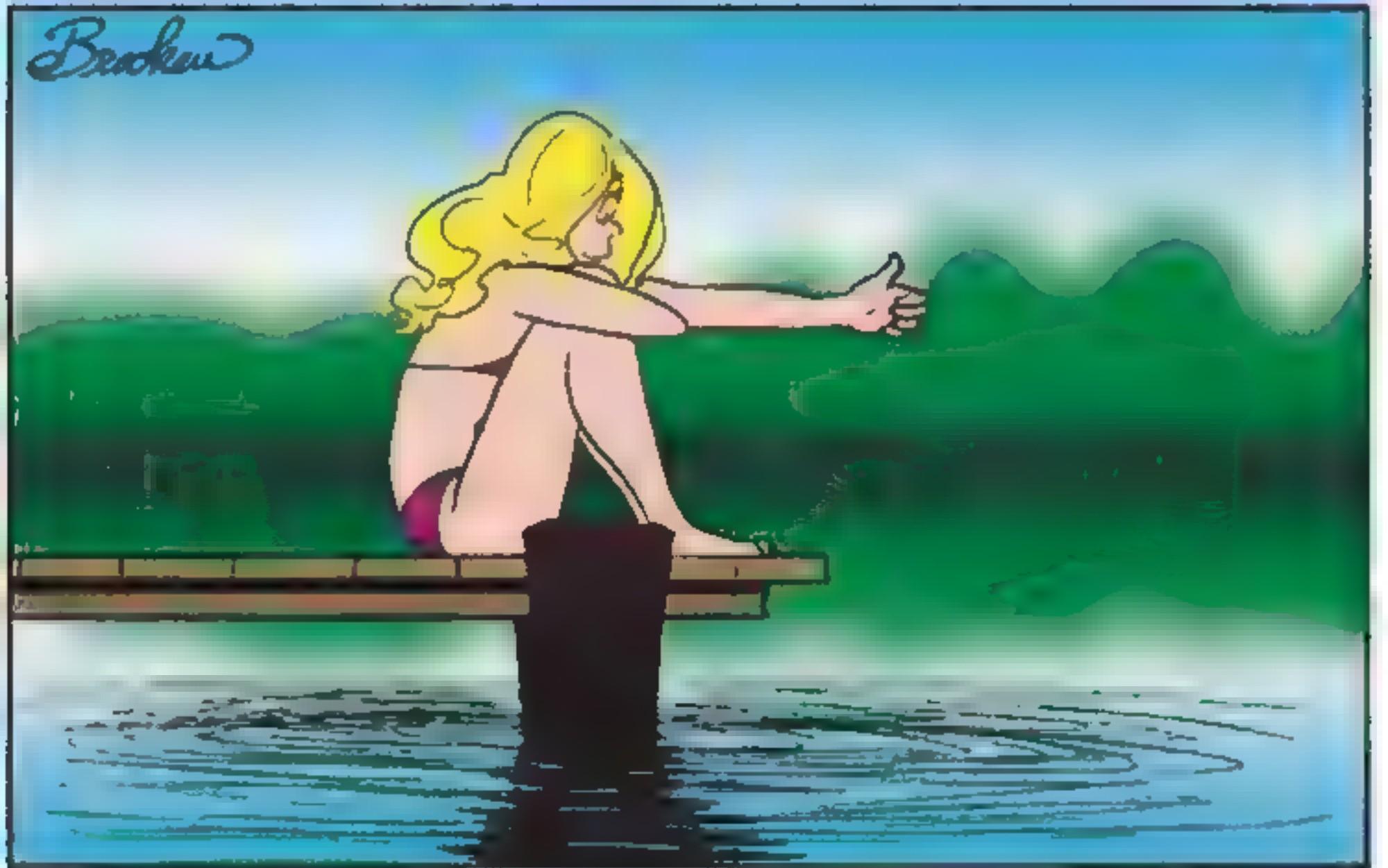




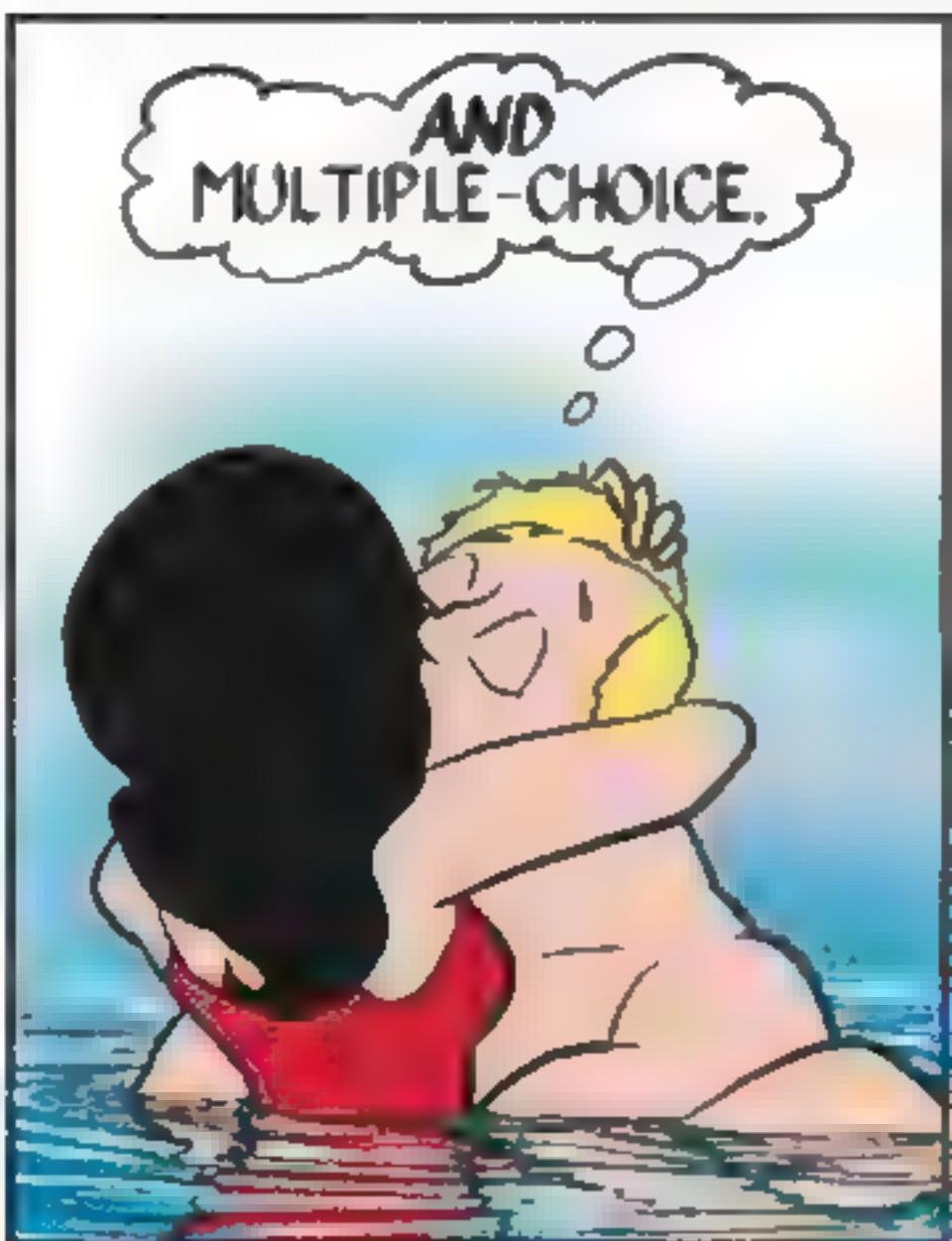
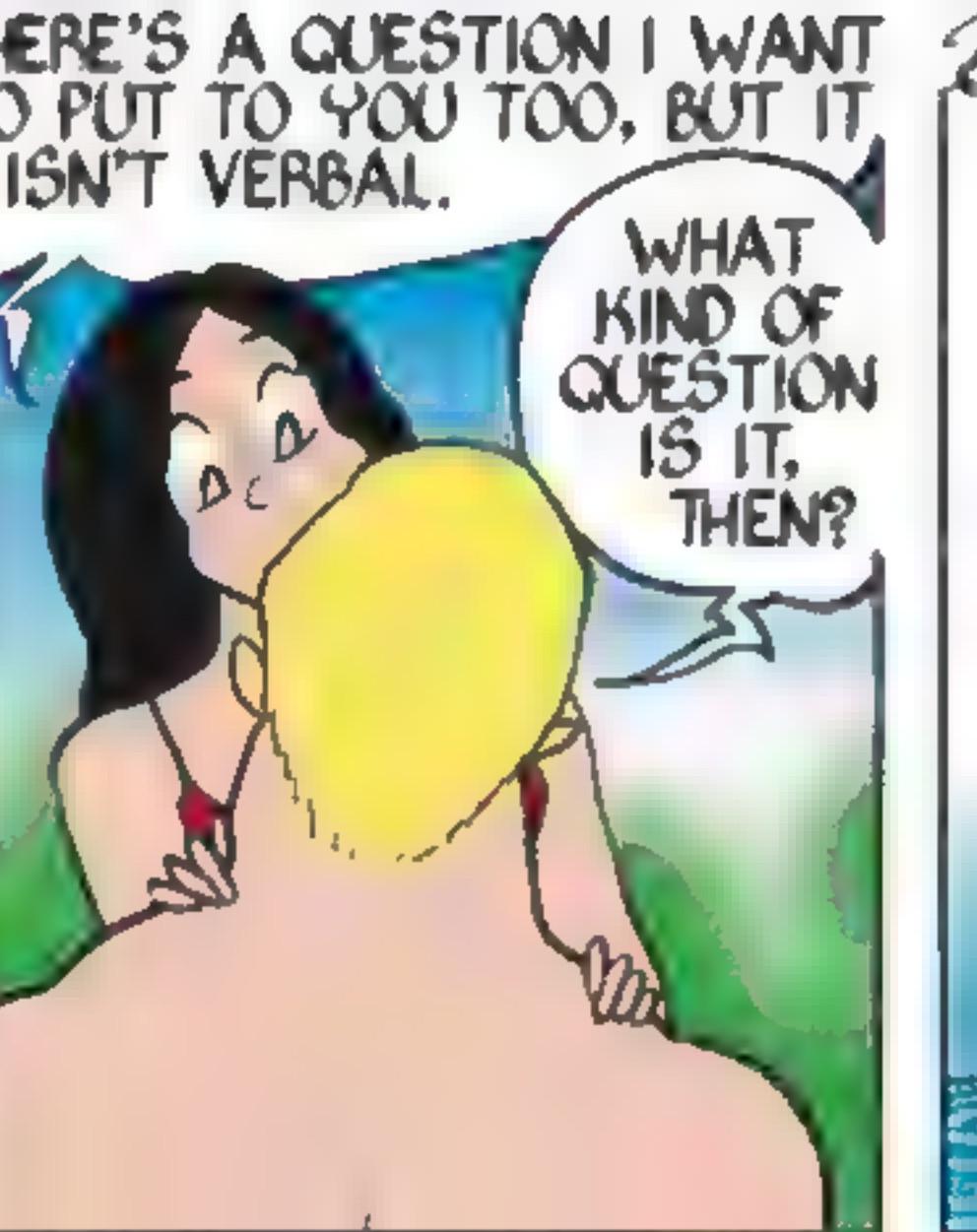
I'M GLAD WE'RE
HERE ALONE,
BECAUSE I
FEEL OUR DATE
NEVER ENDED,
AT LEAST
PROPERLY.

WELL,
LET'S JUST
SAY WE'RE
STILL ON
OUR DATE.
HOW
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO END
IT?

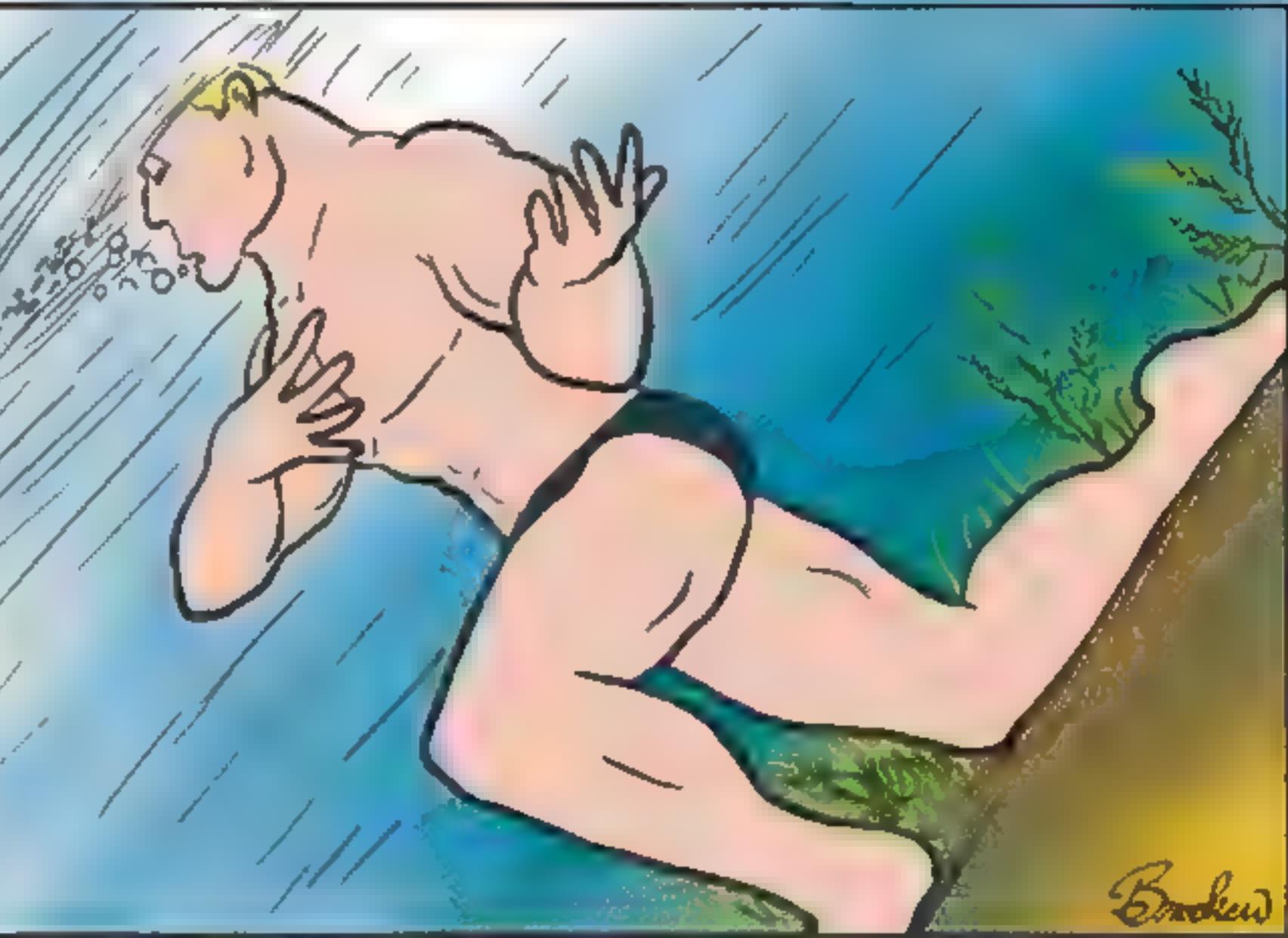
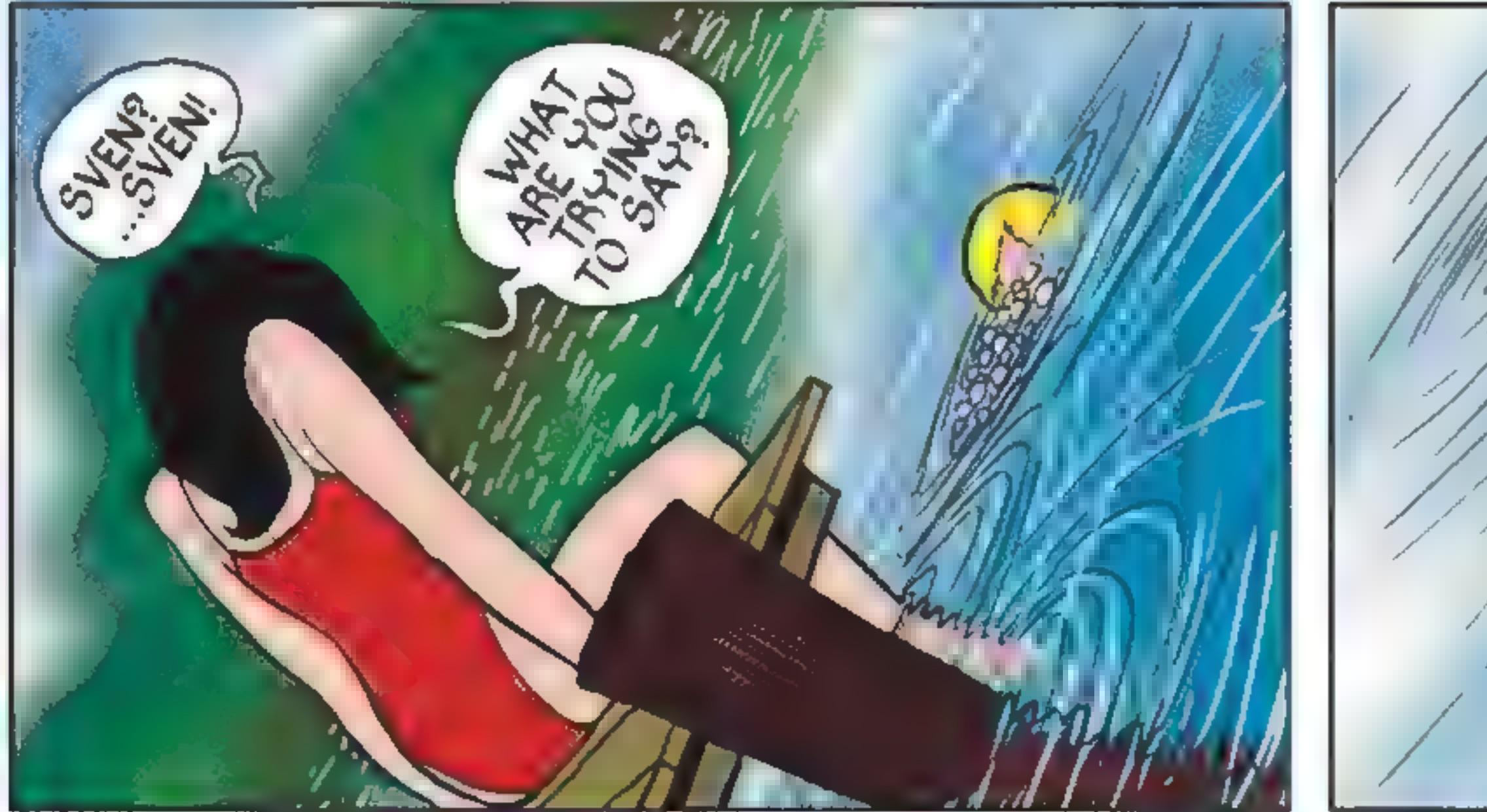


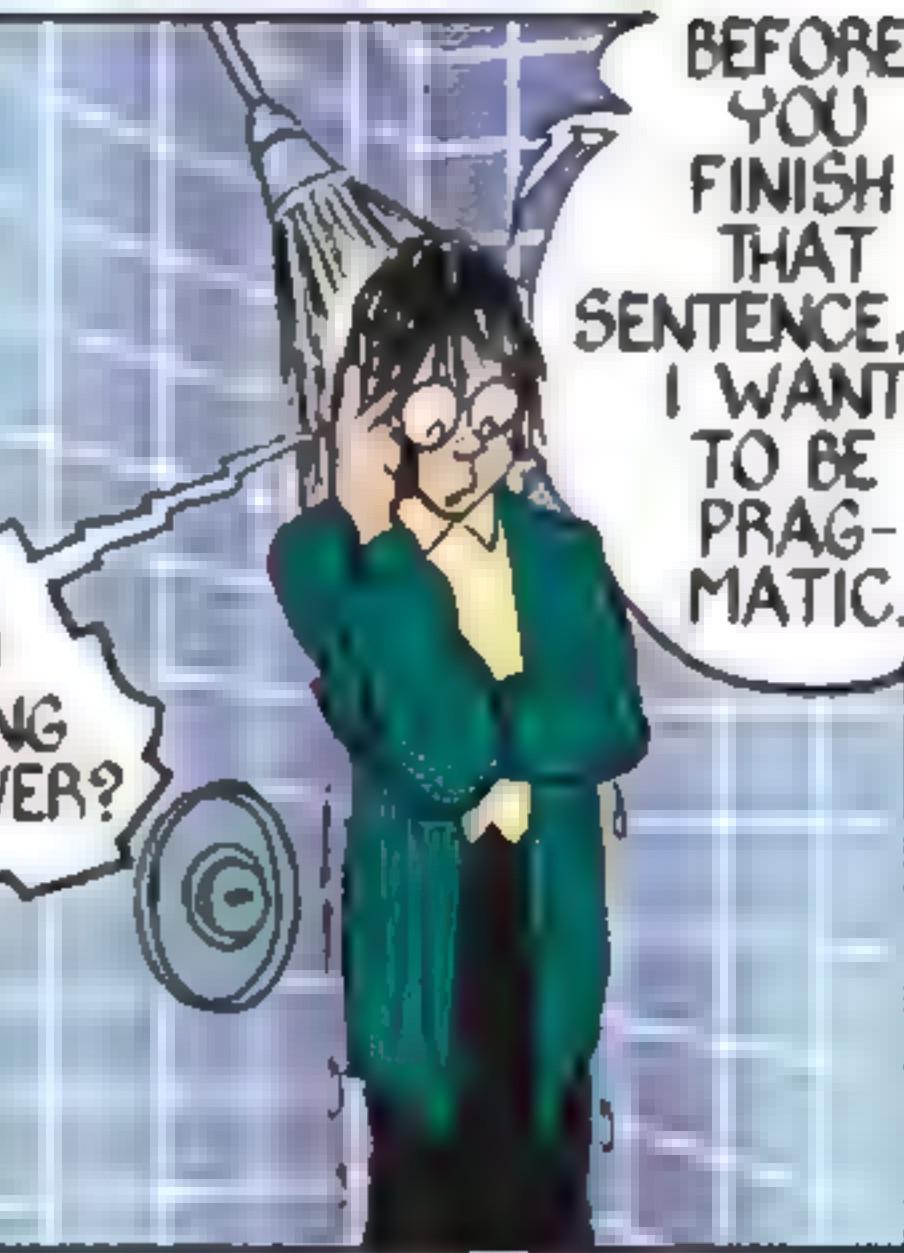
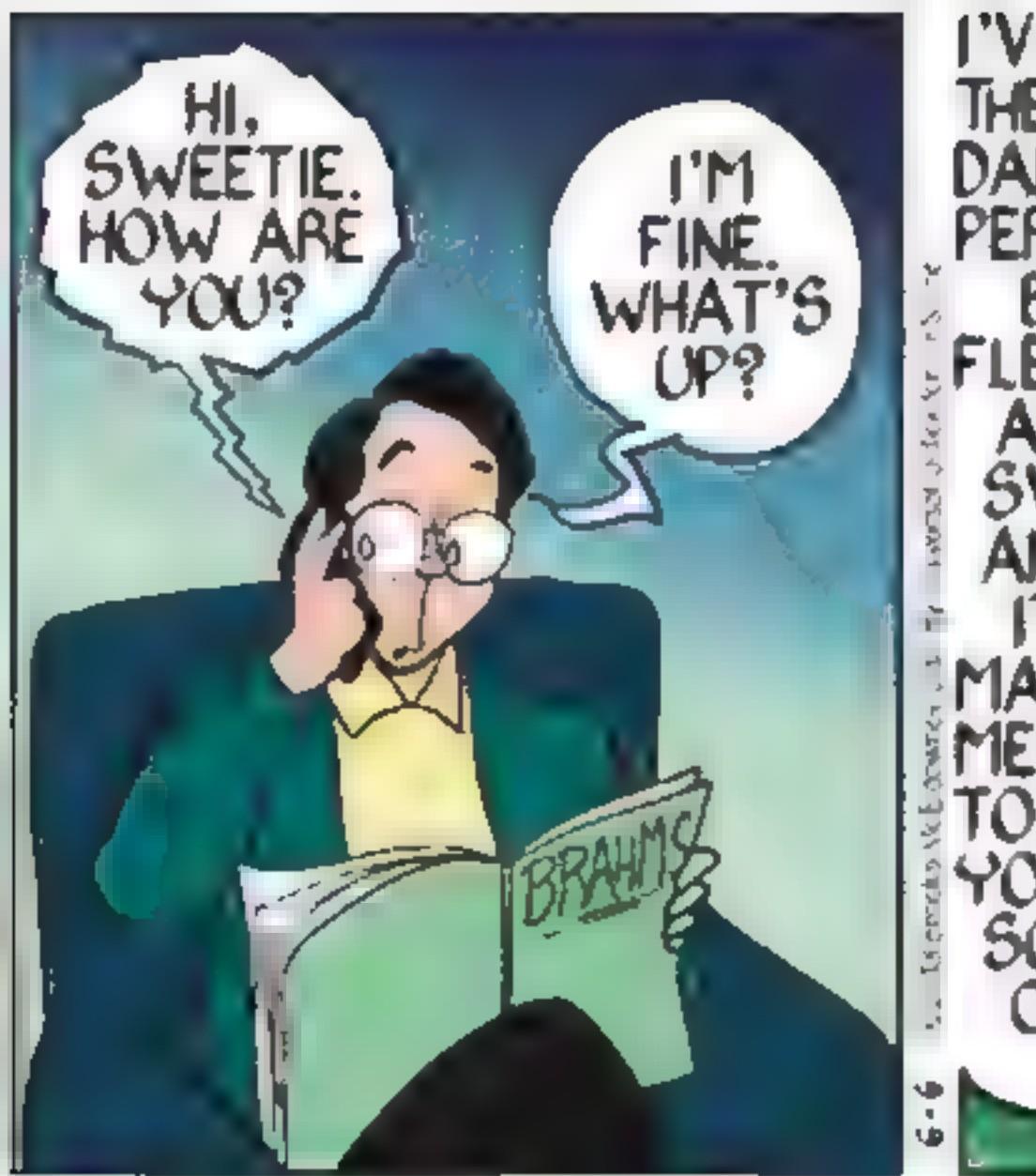




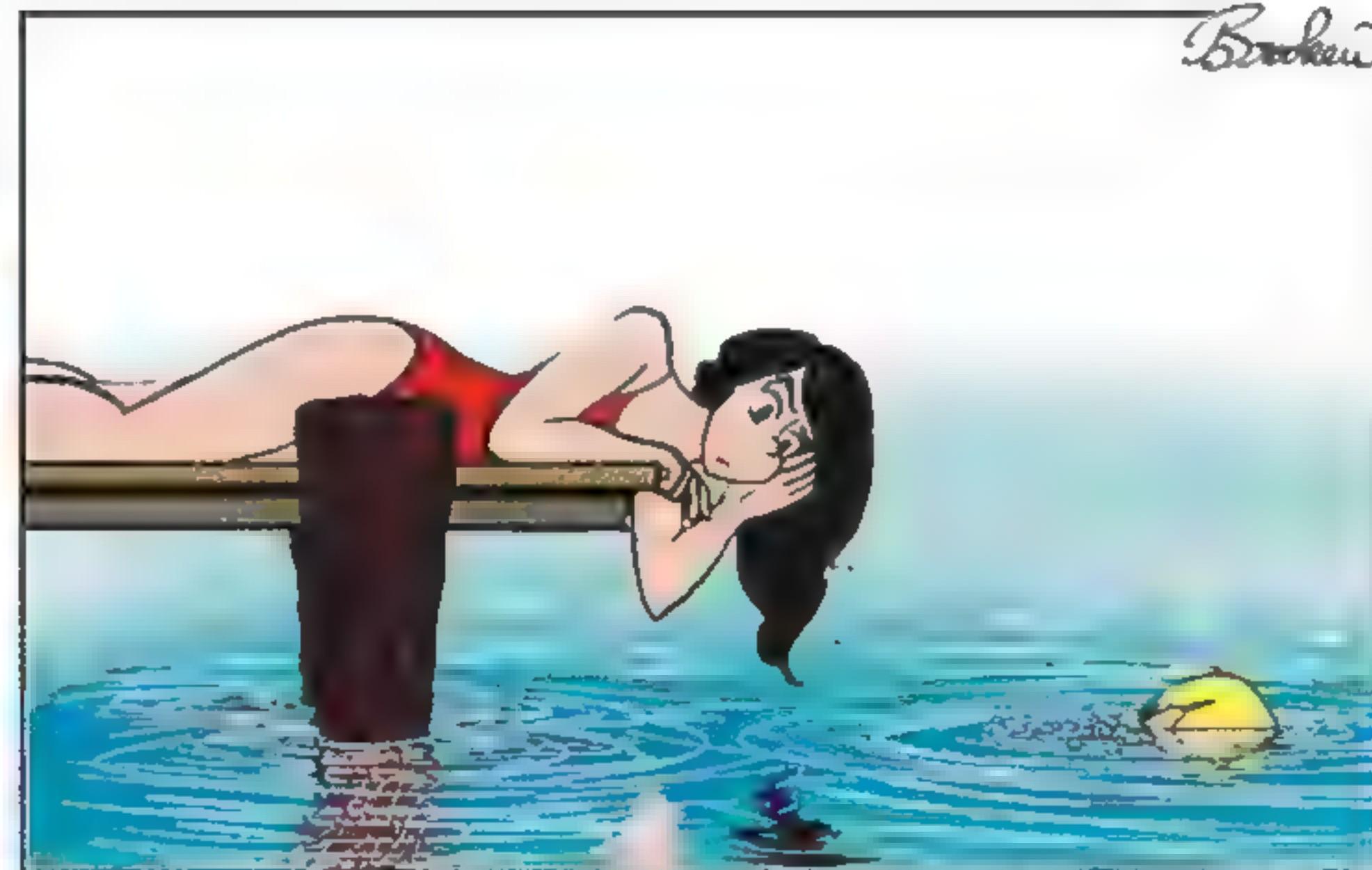
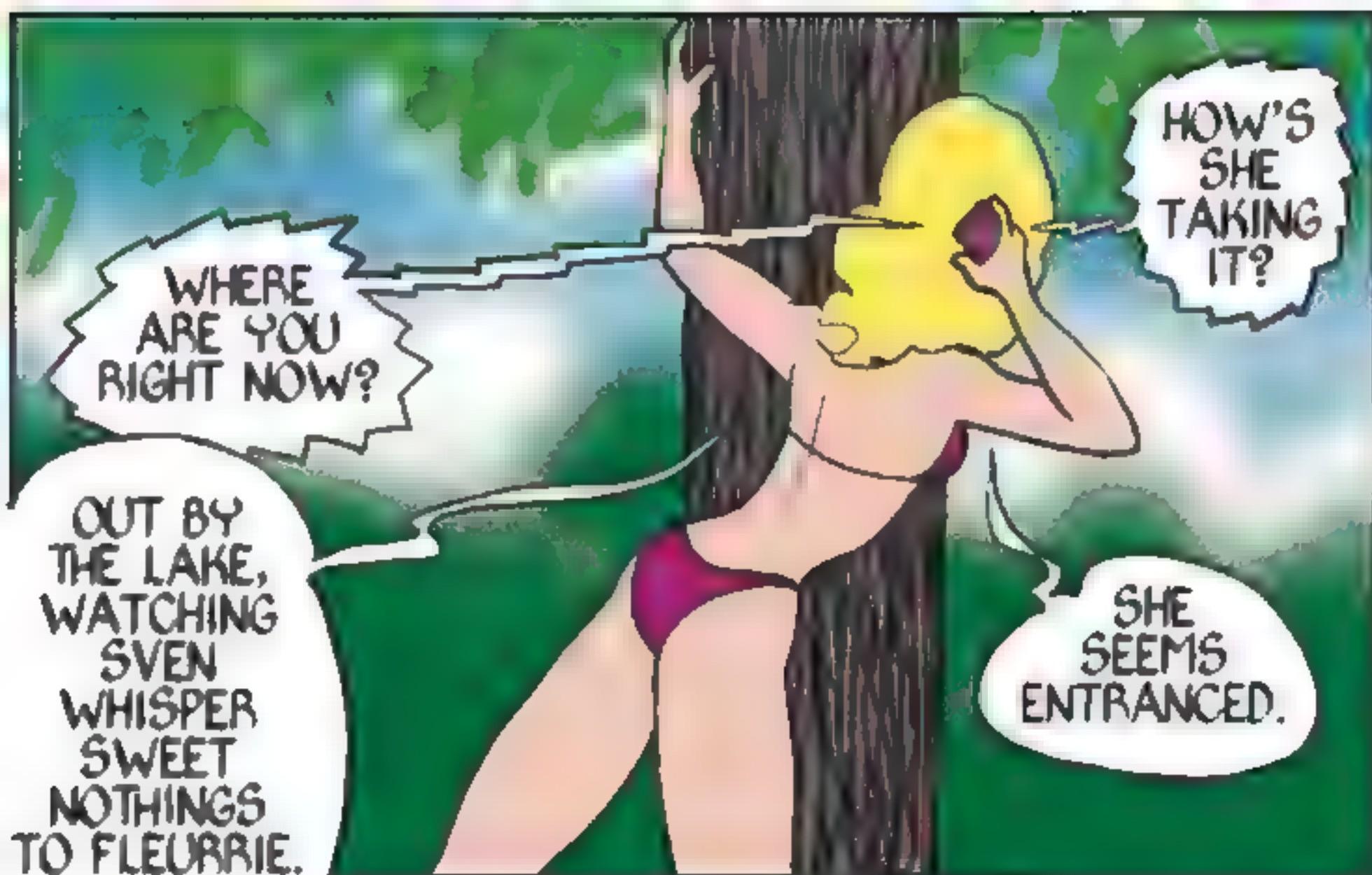


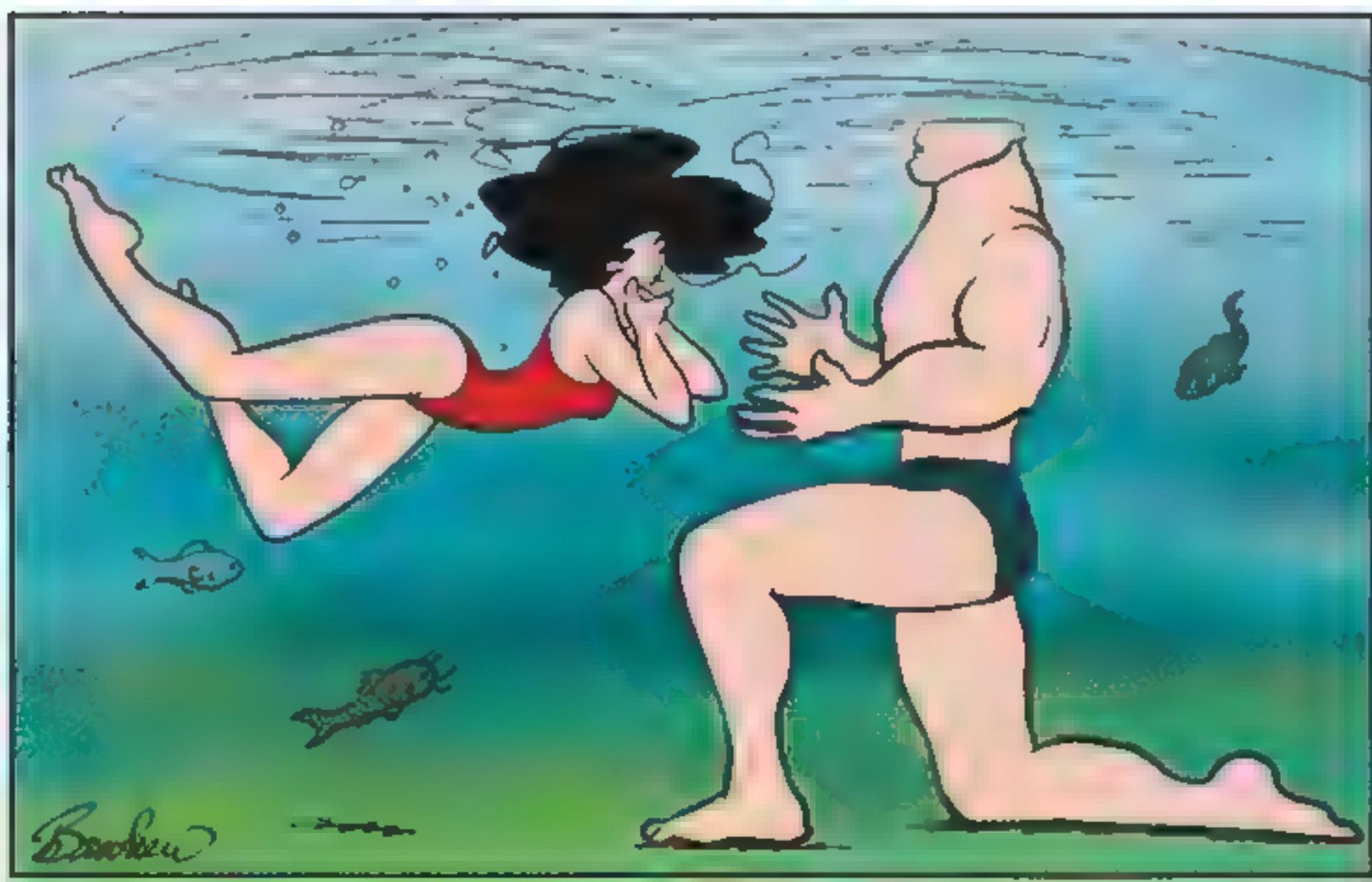
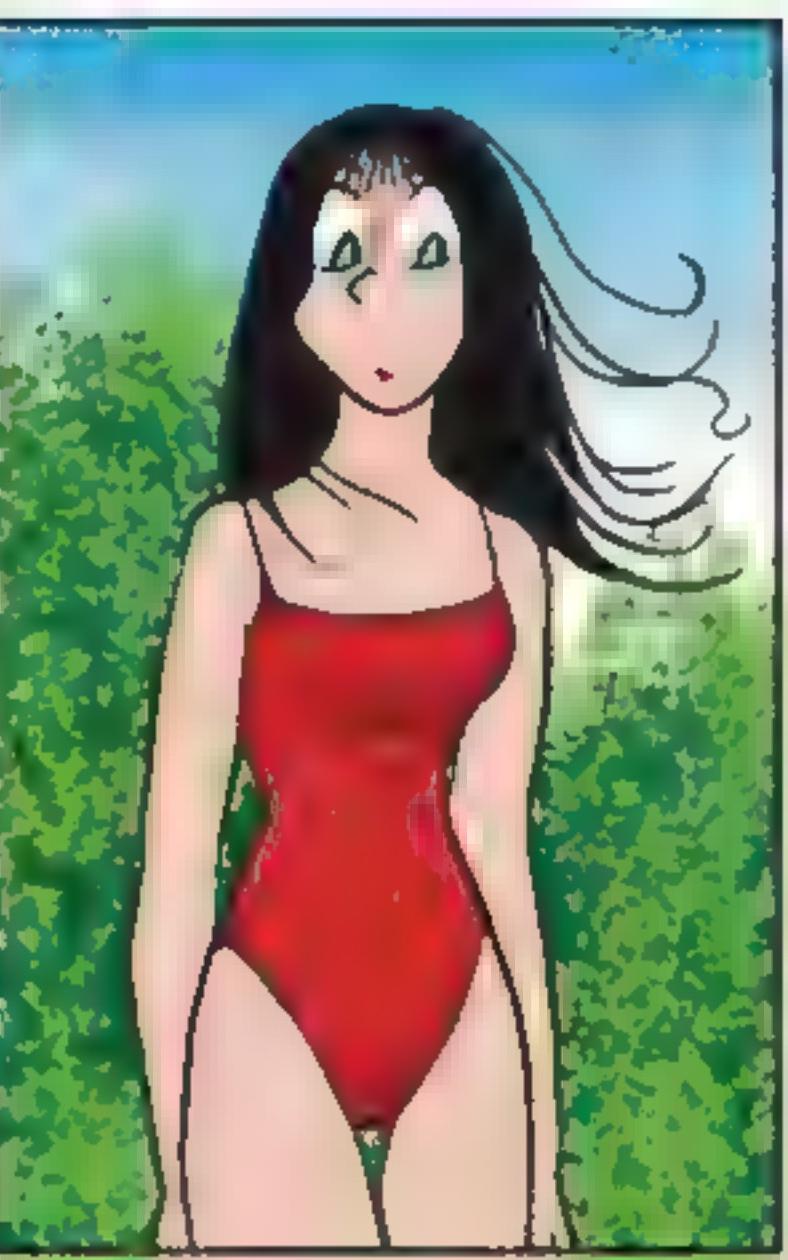
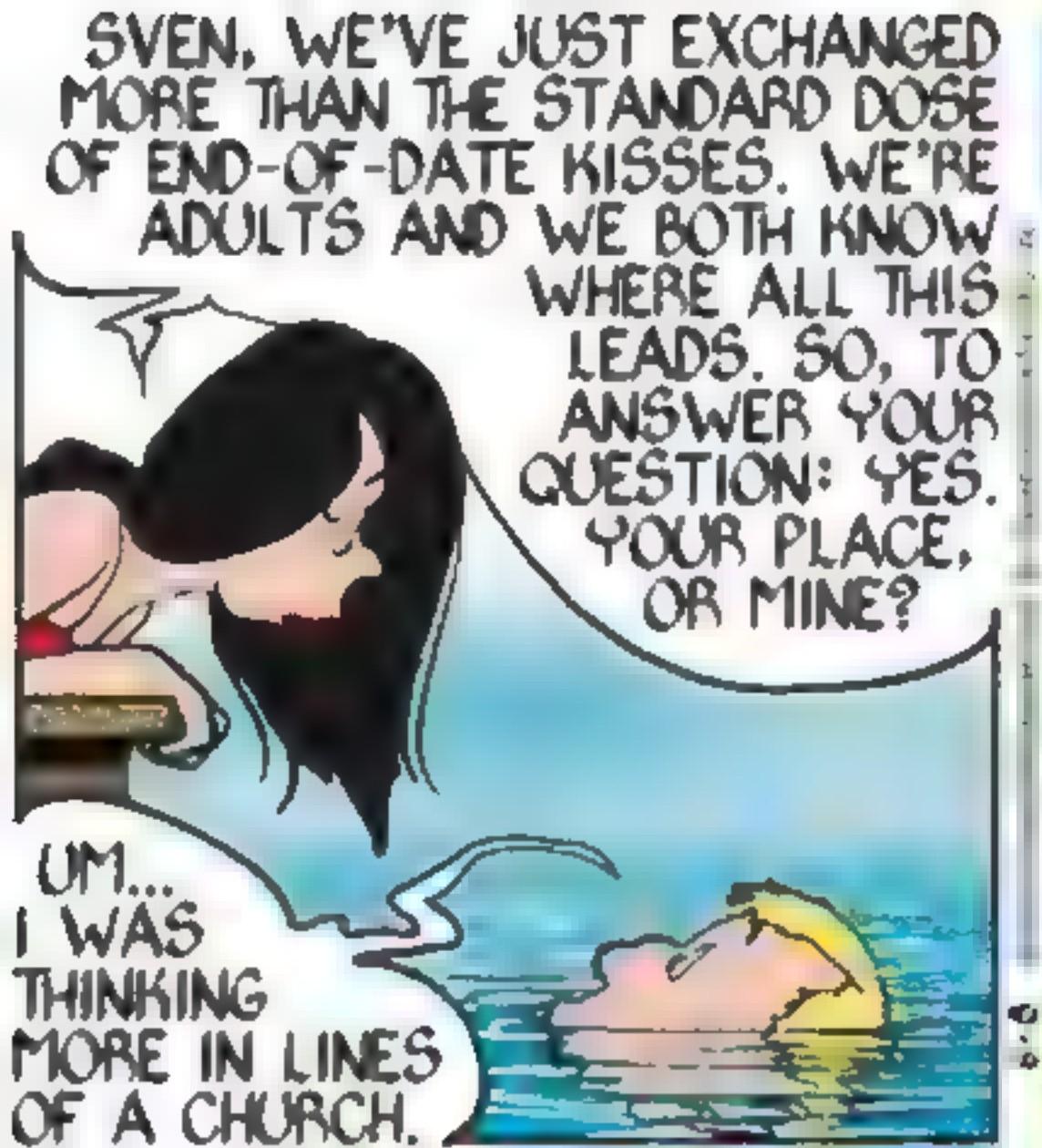


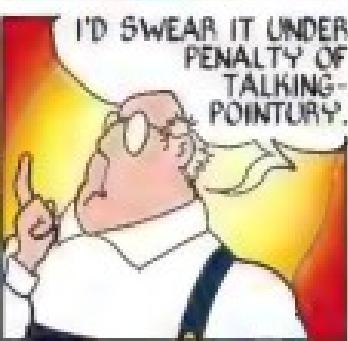
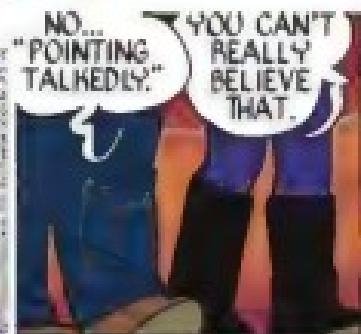


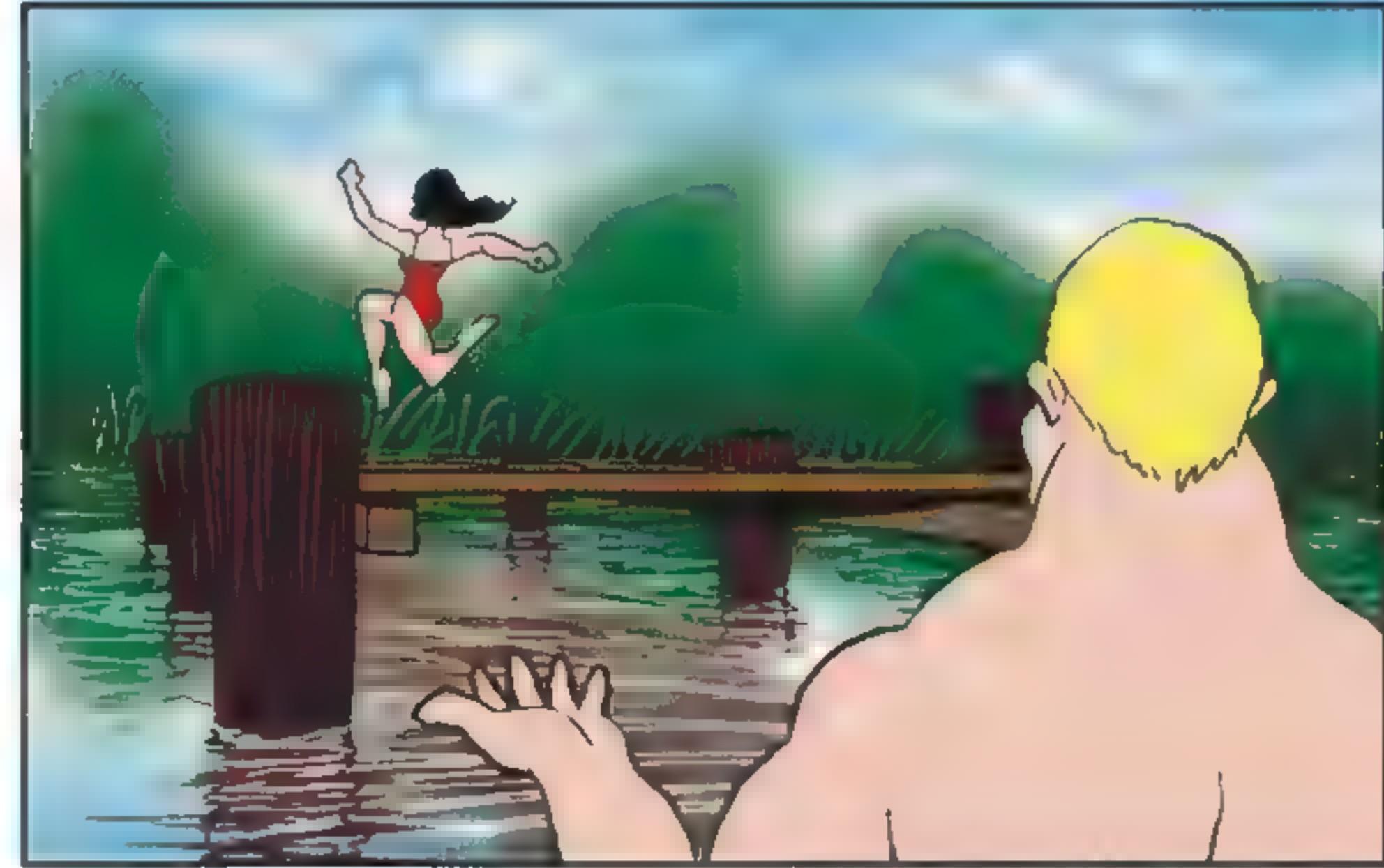
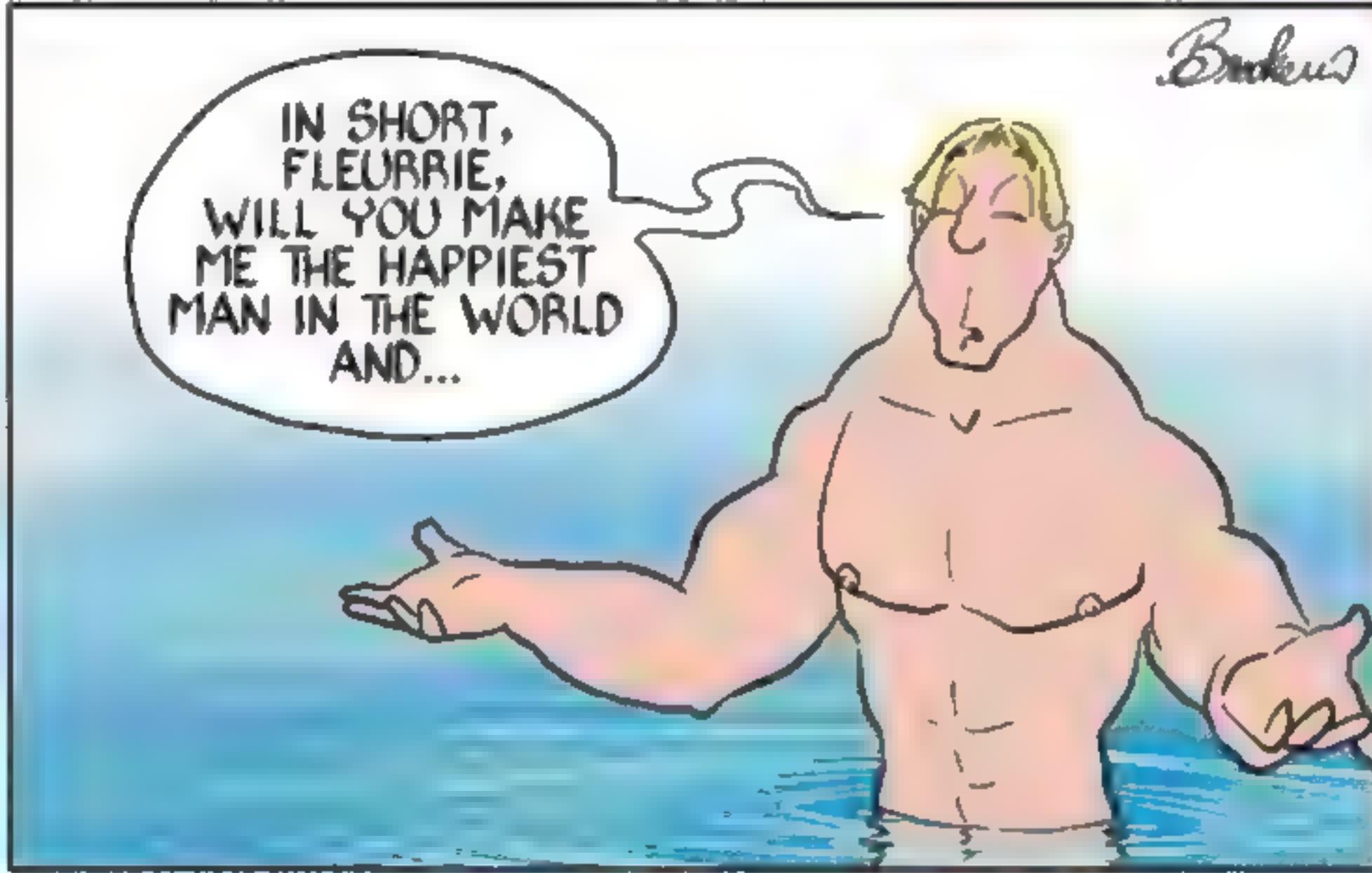


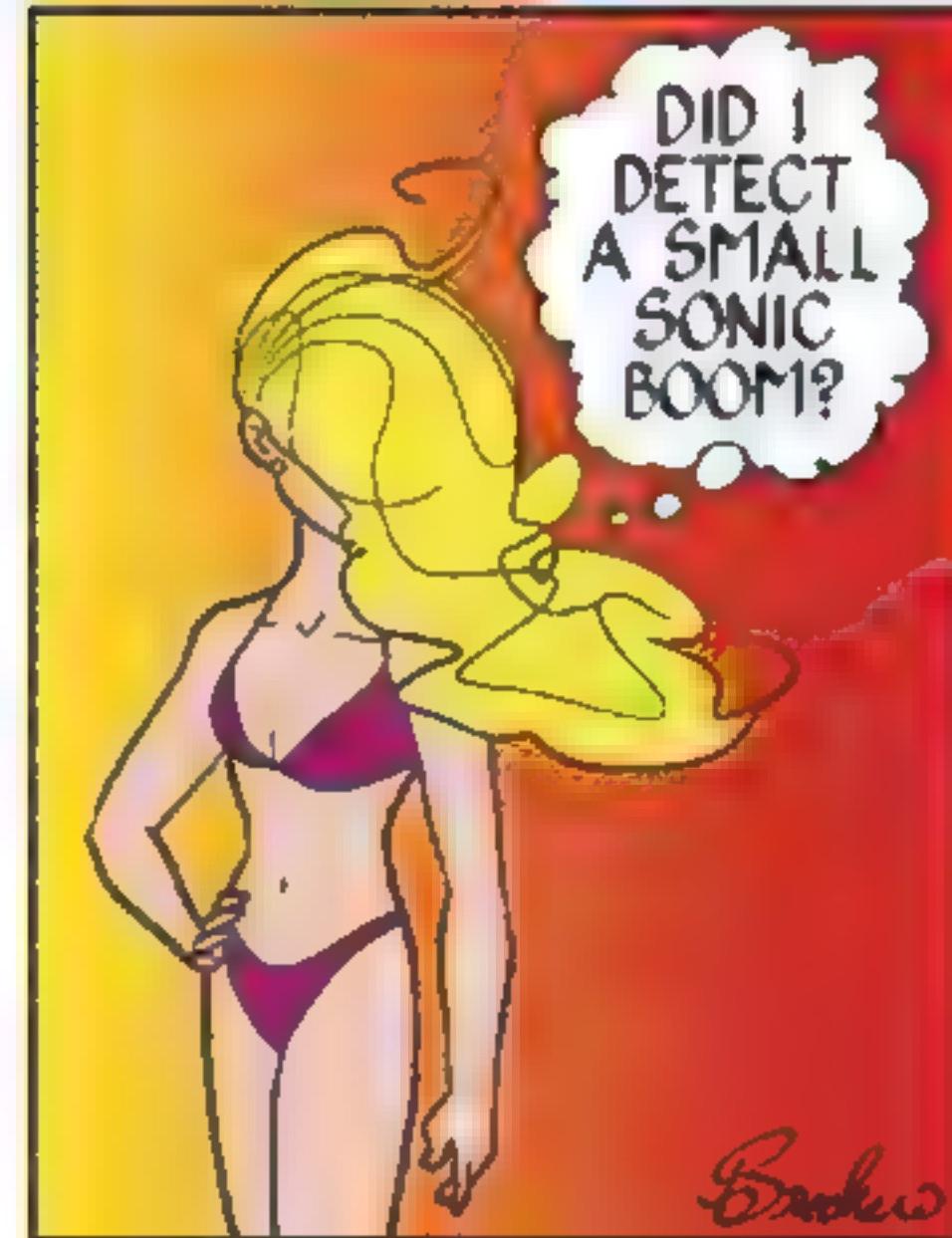
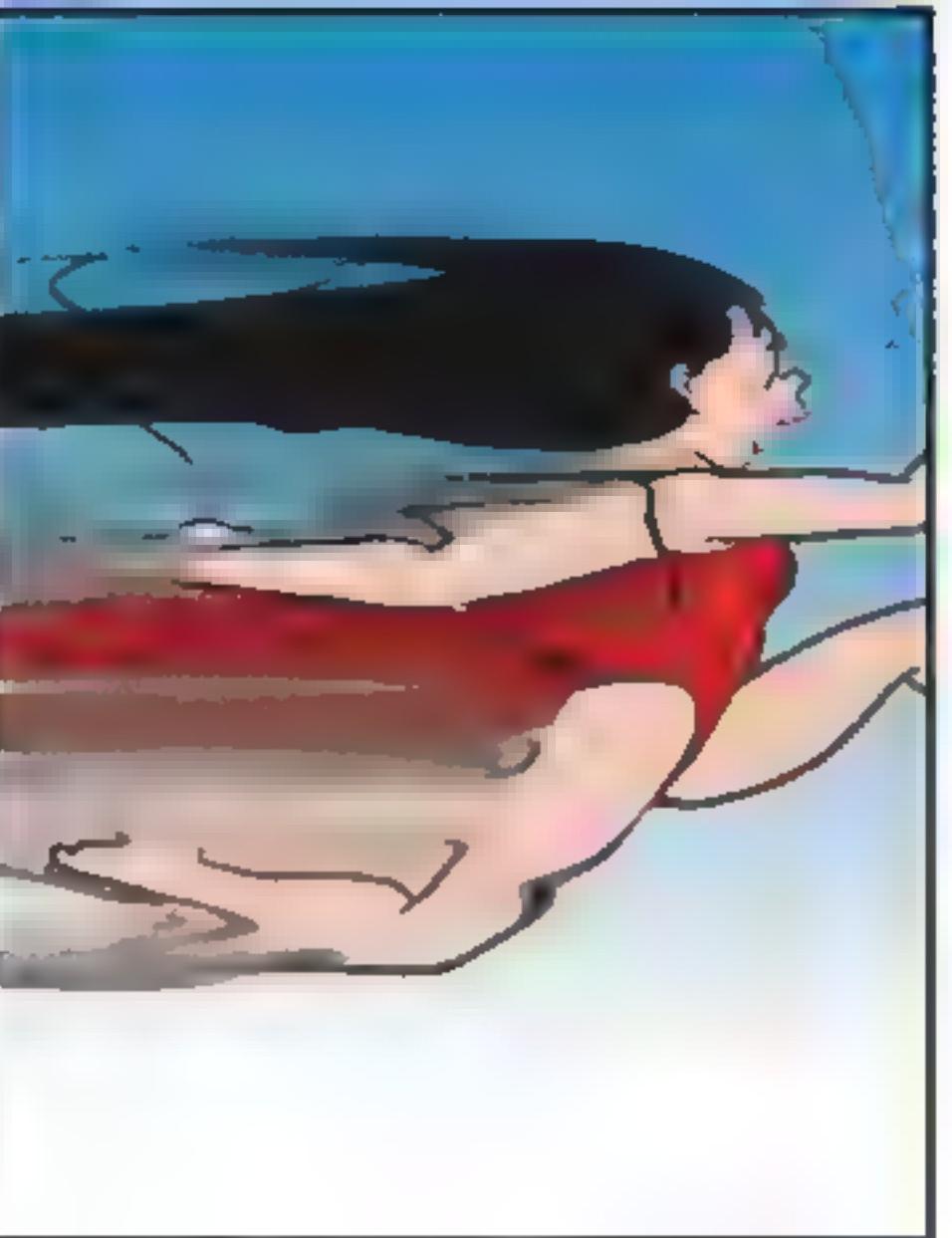
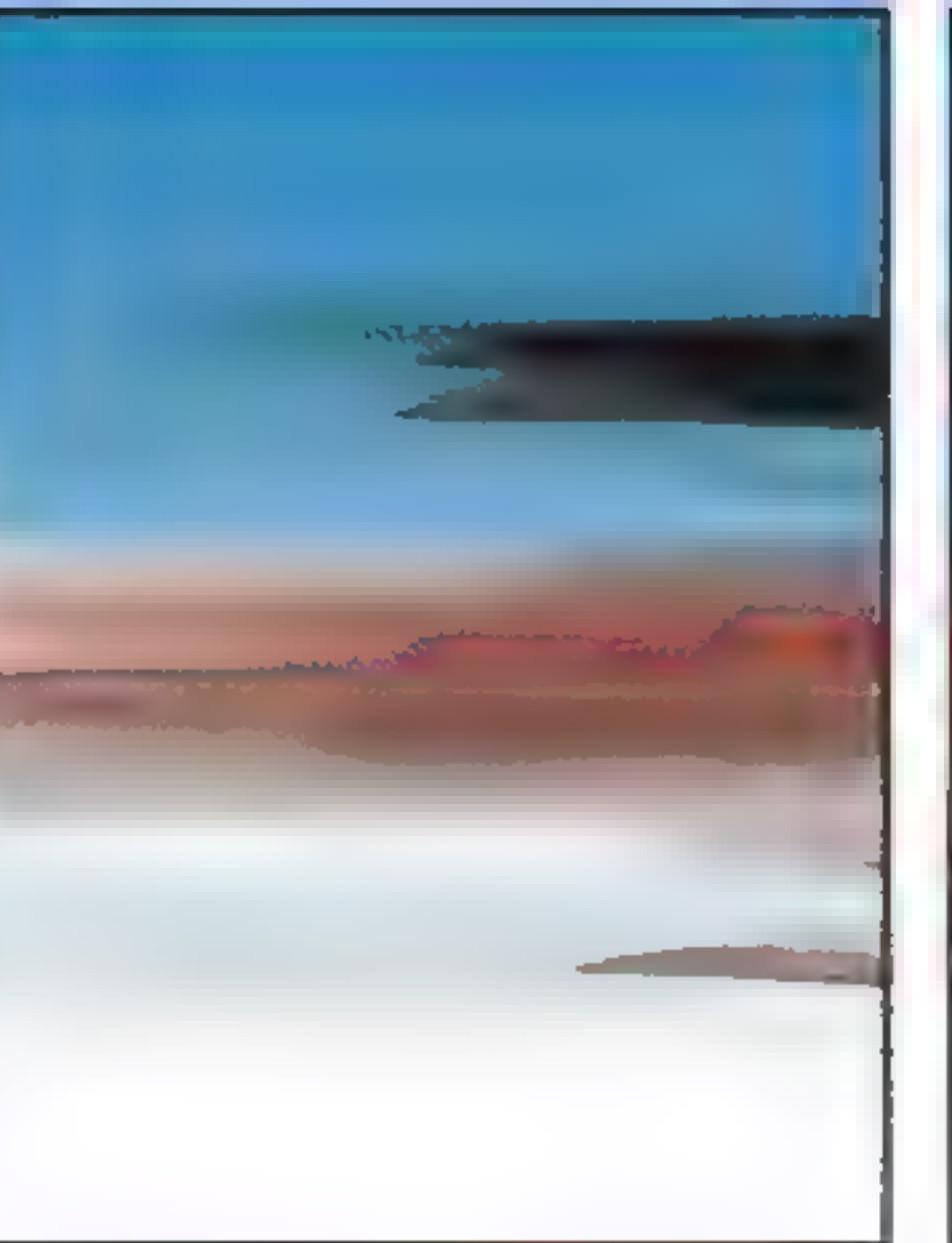
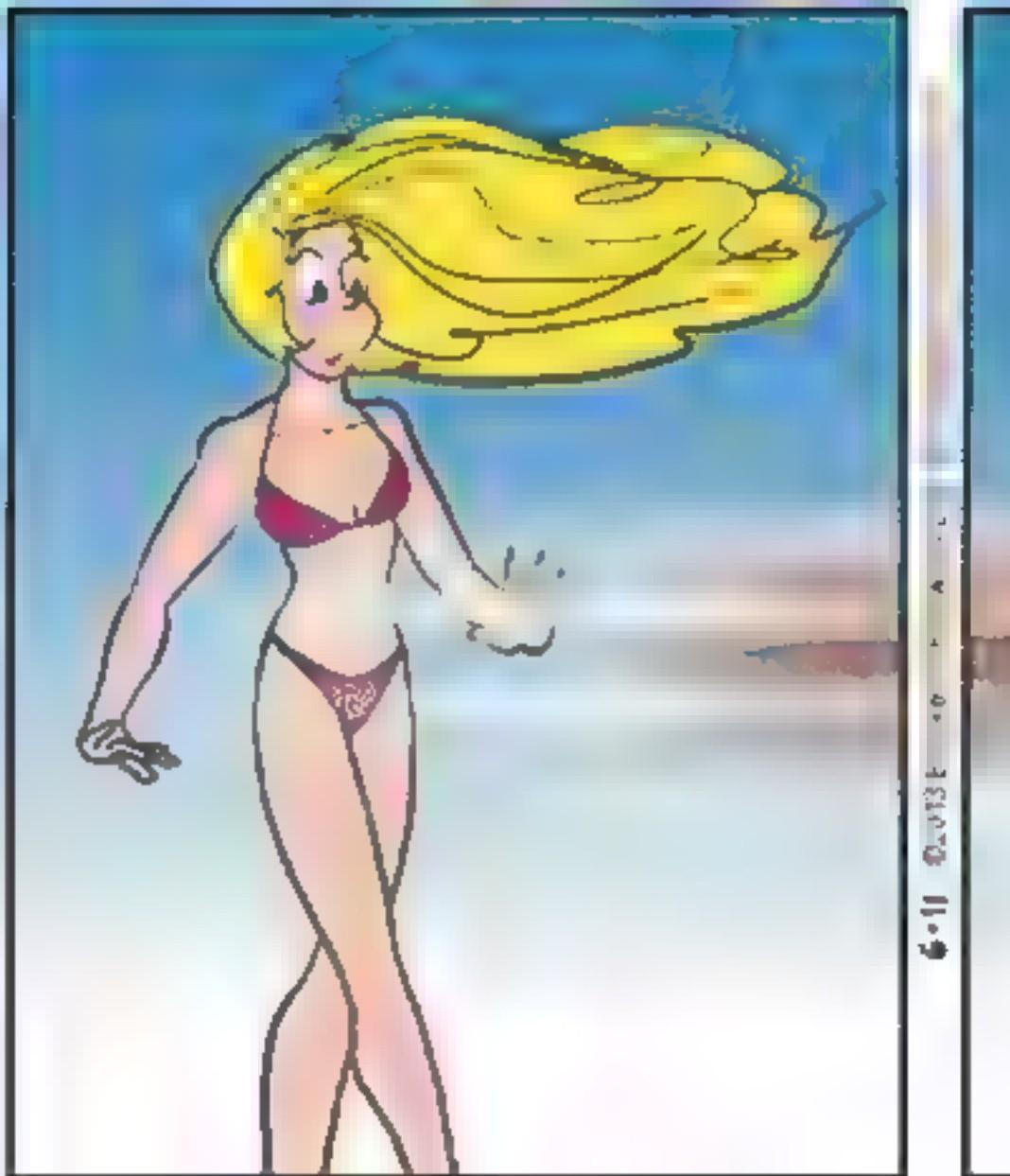
Brakew

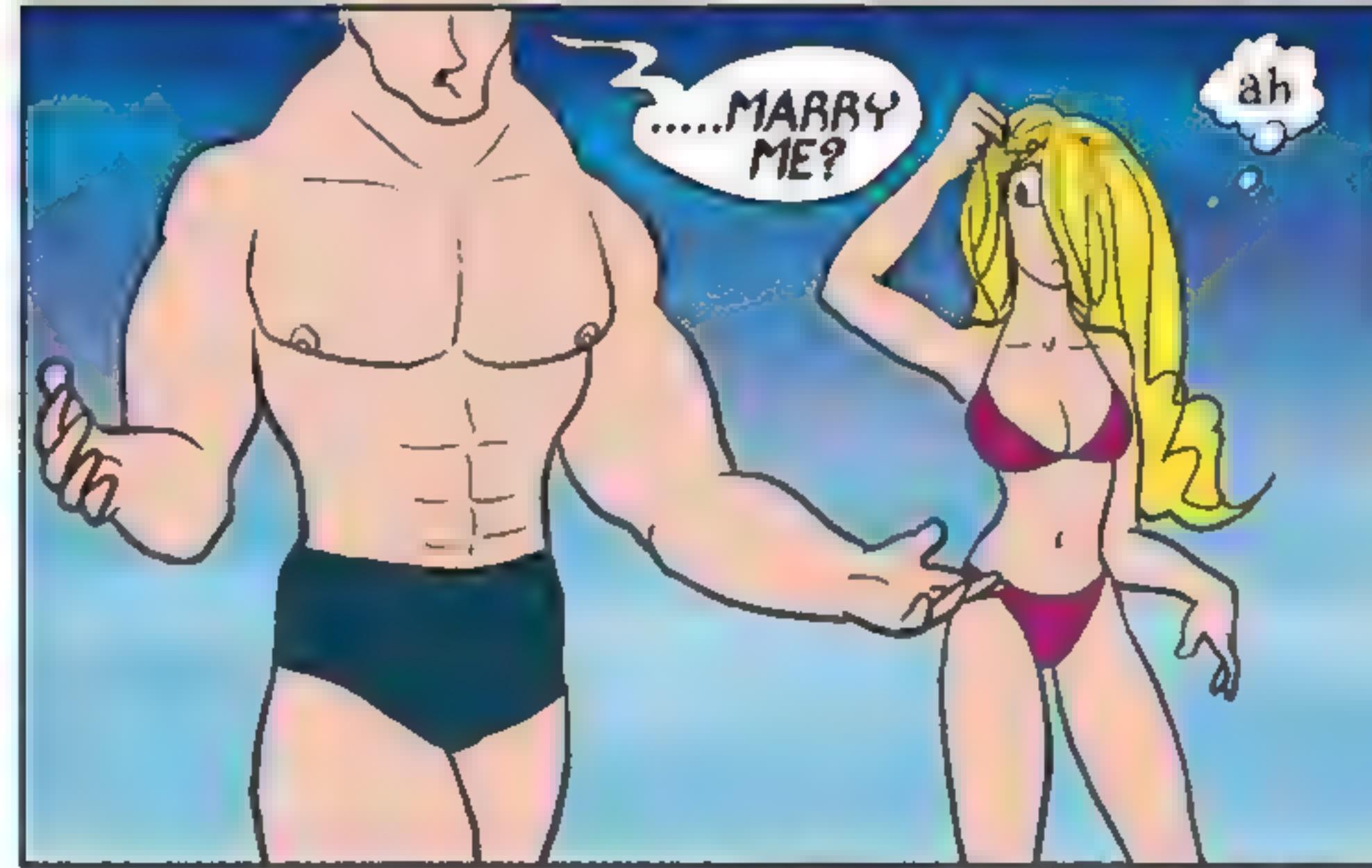
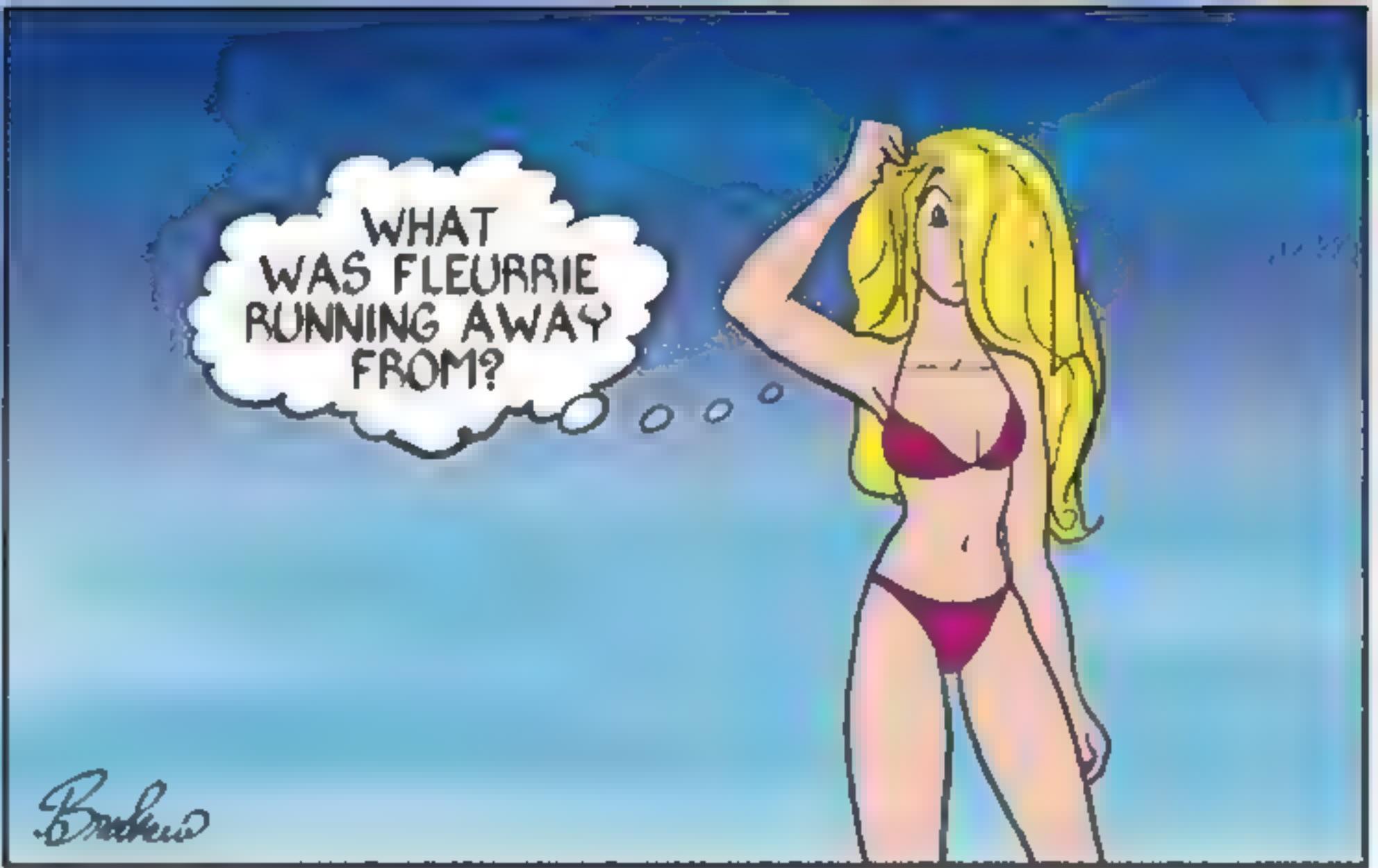


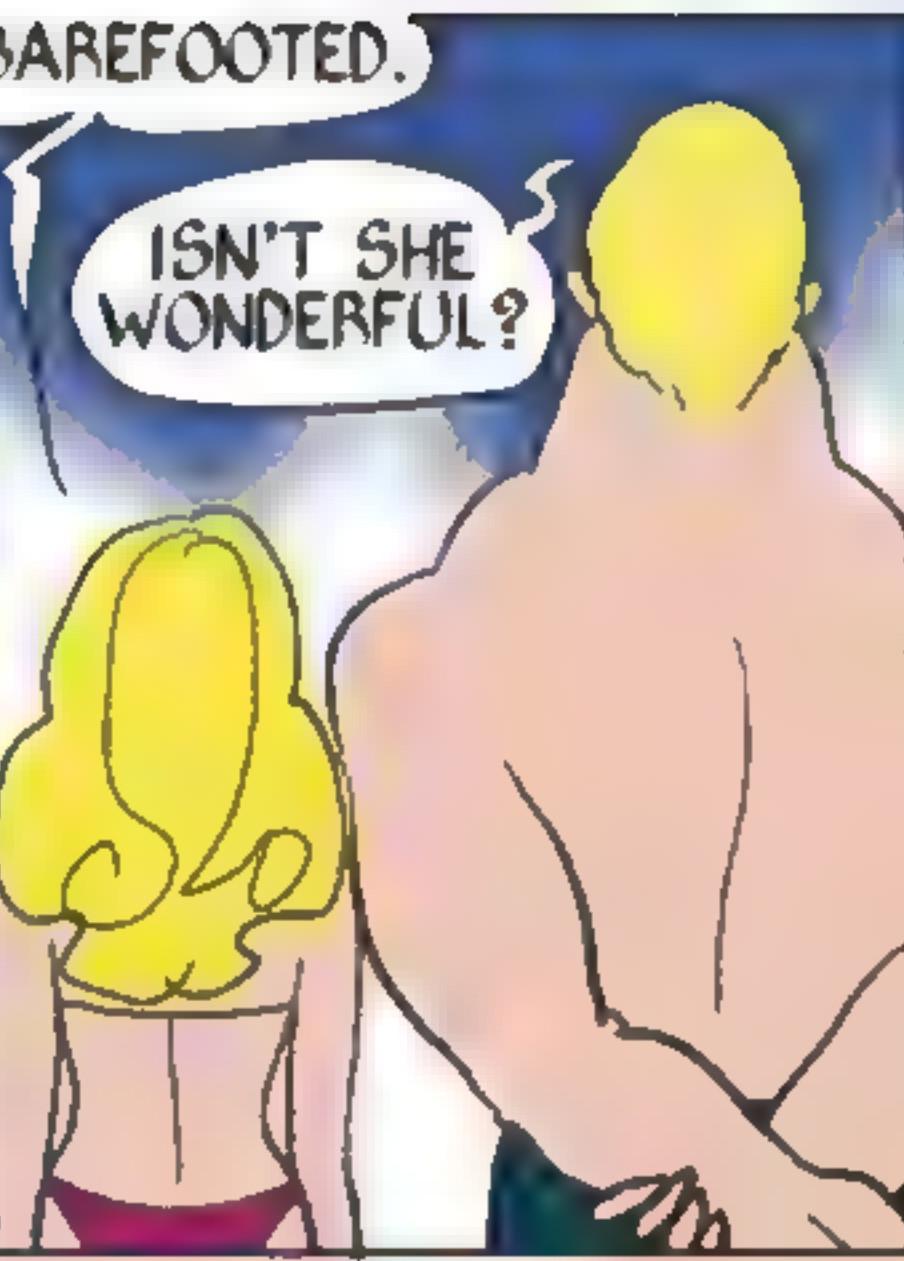
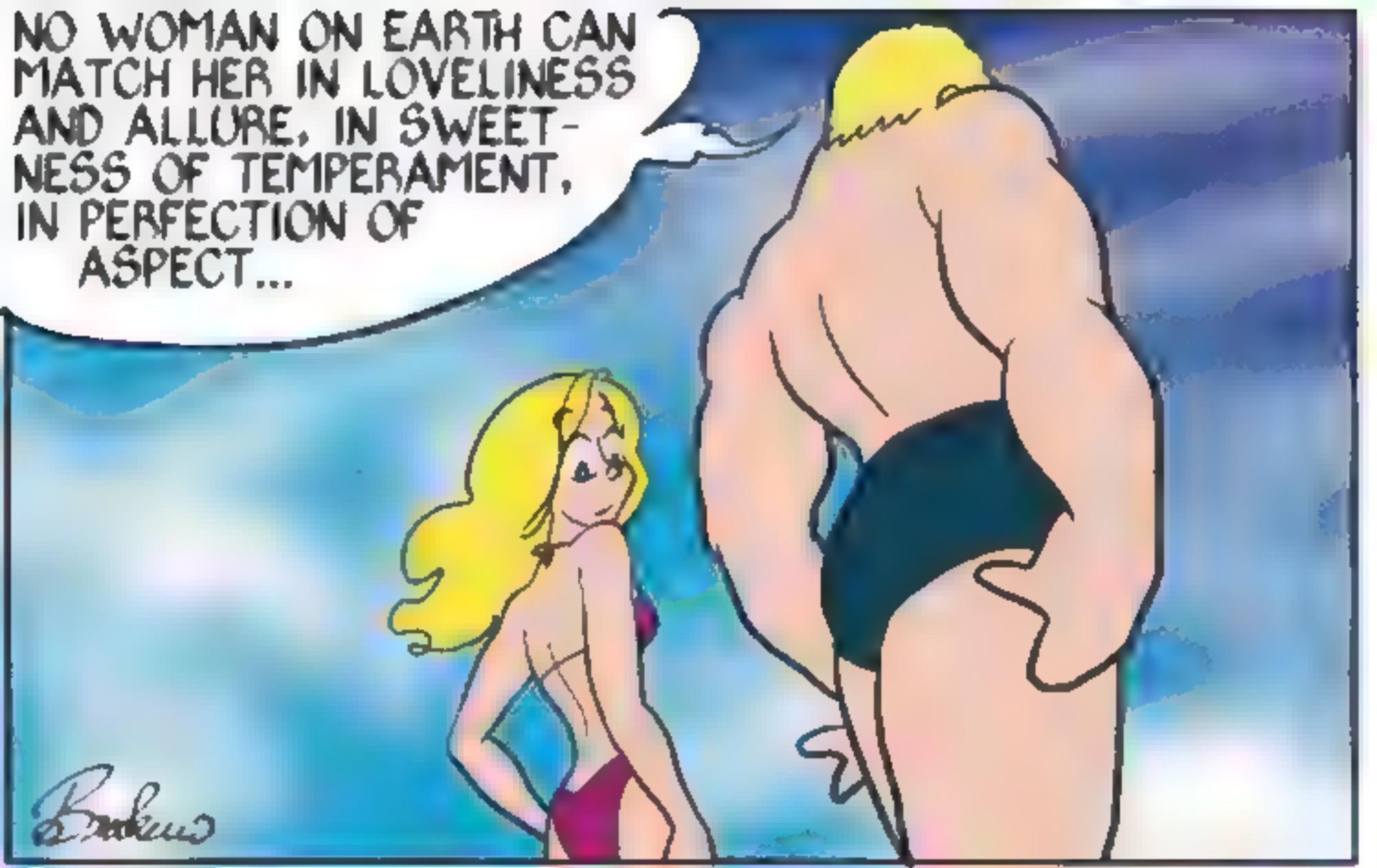


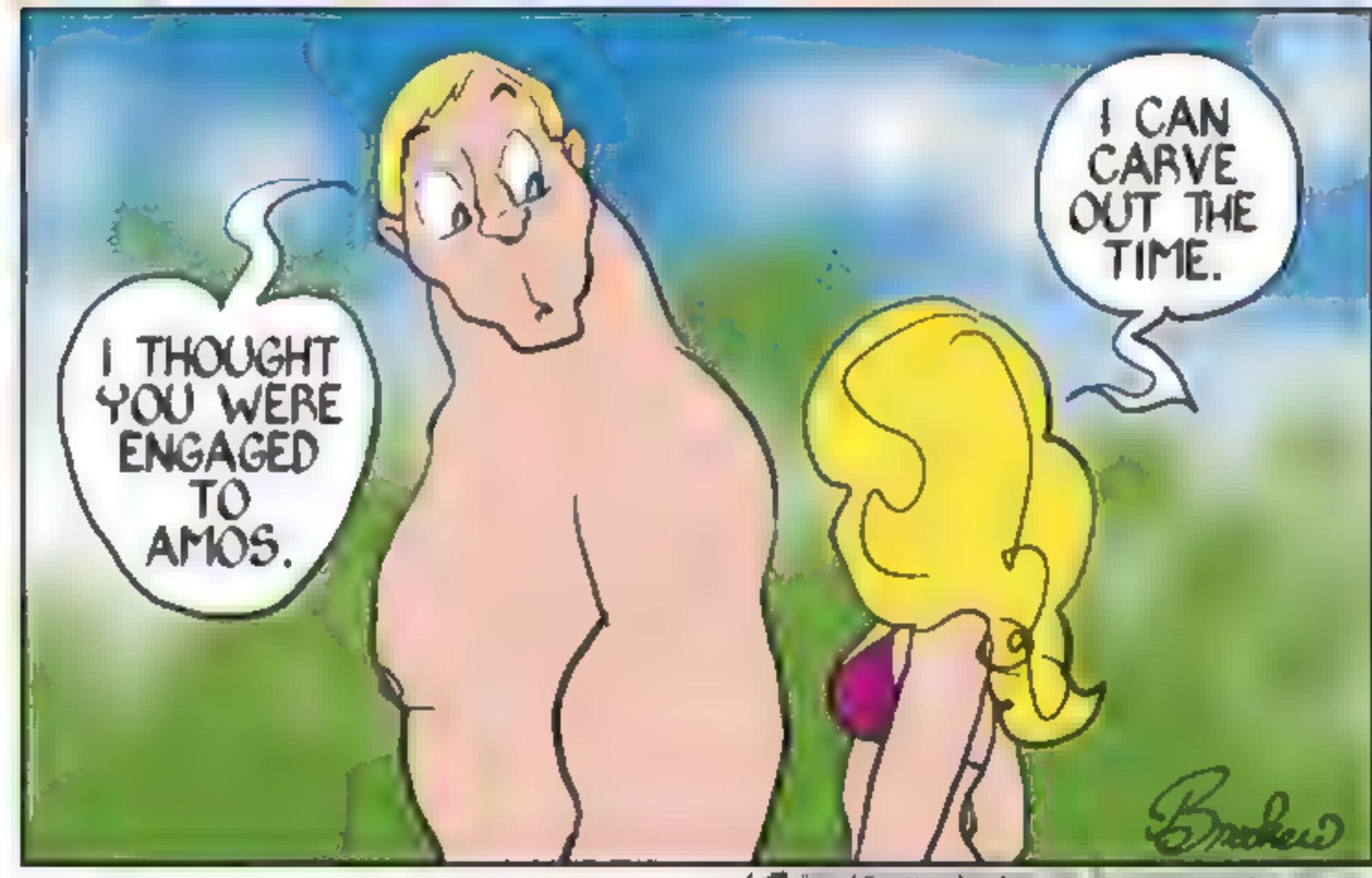
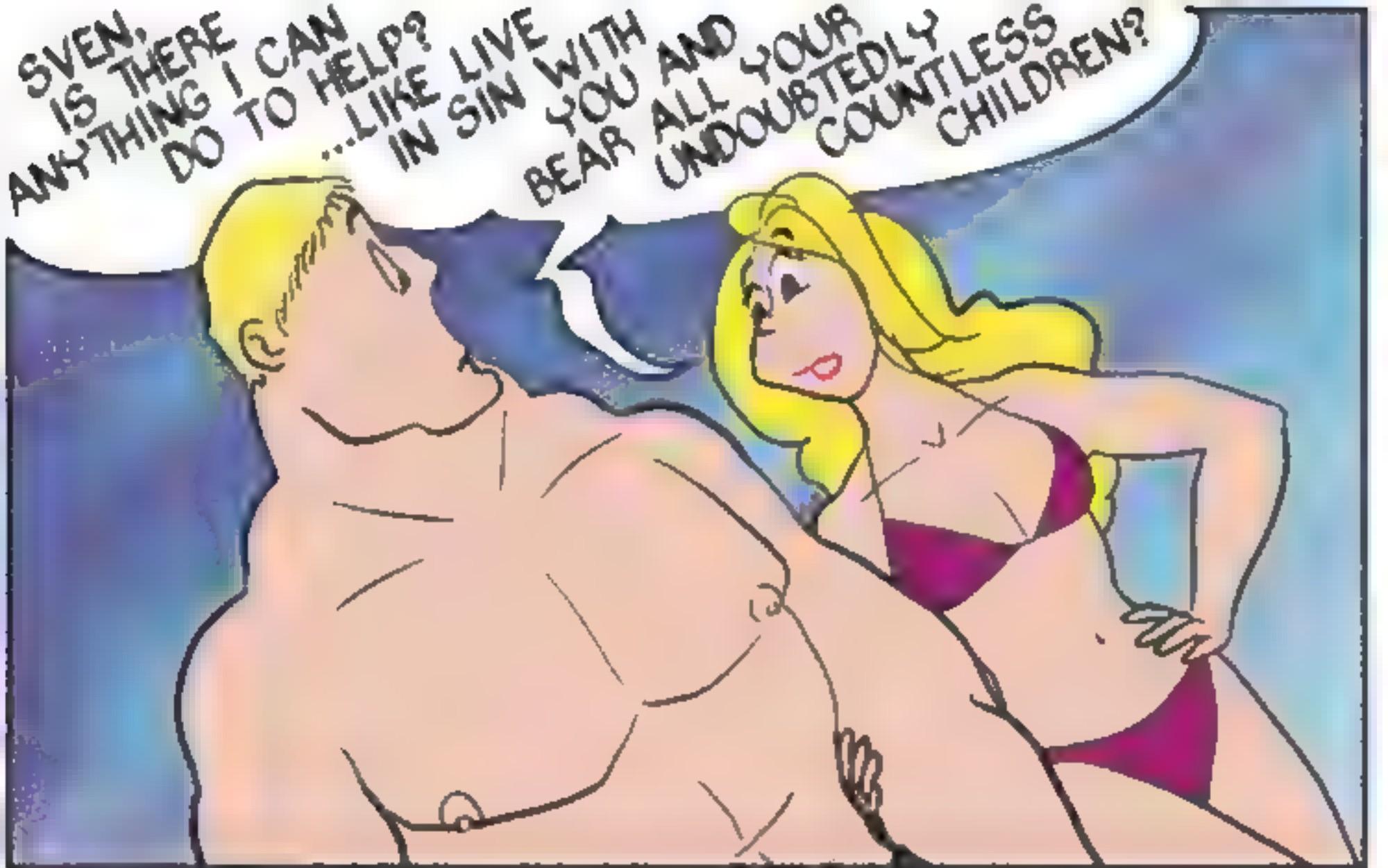






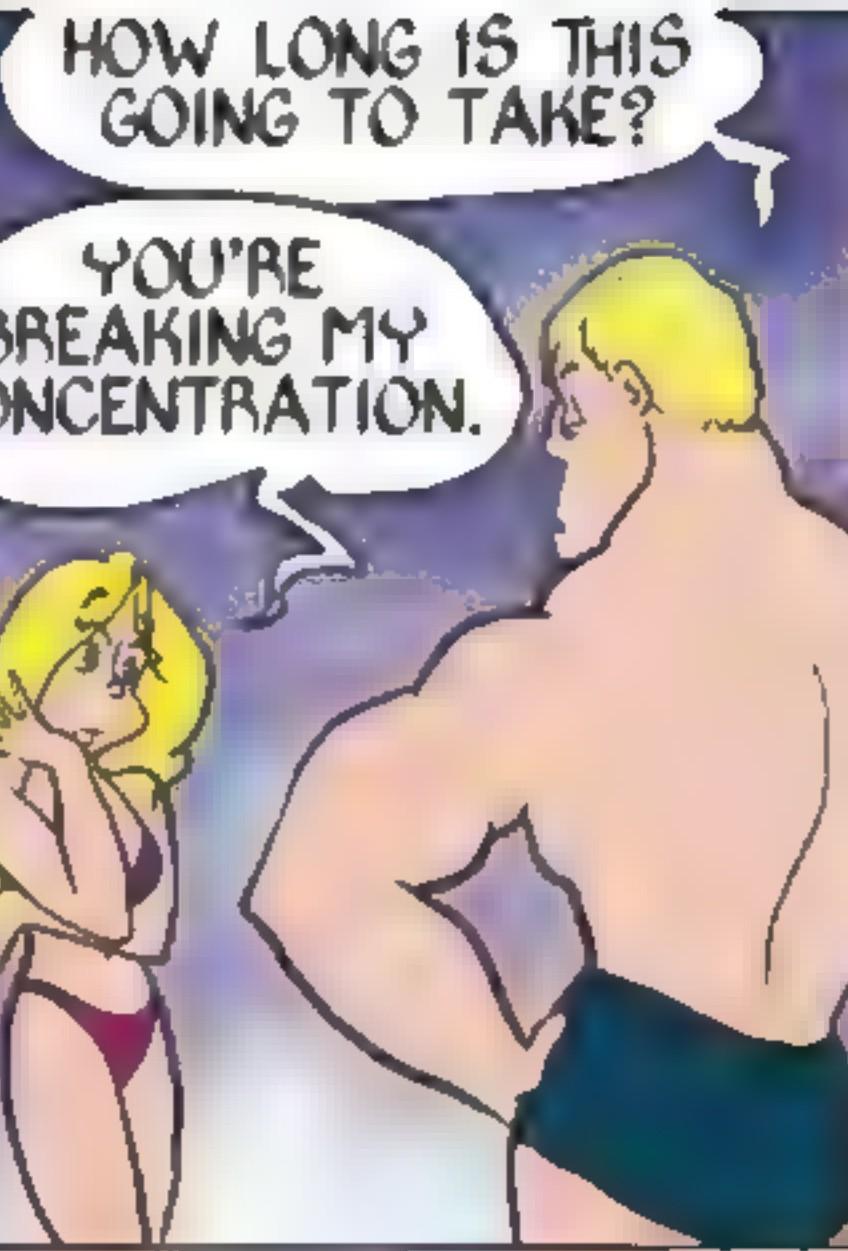


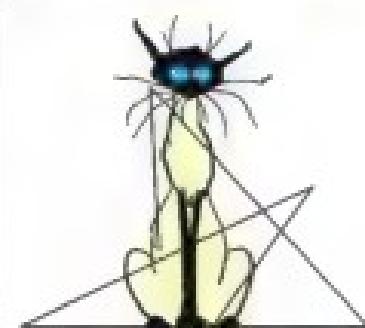
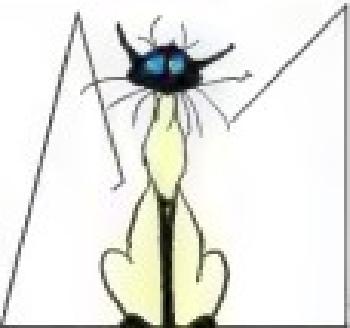
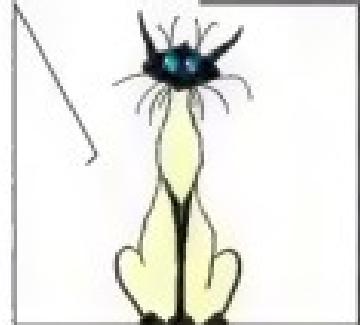
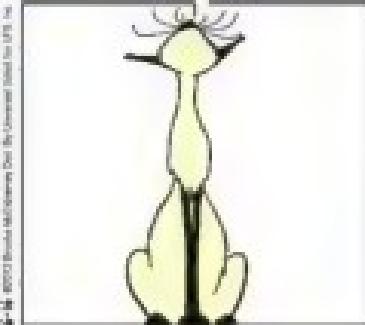
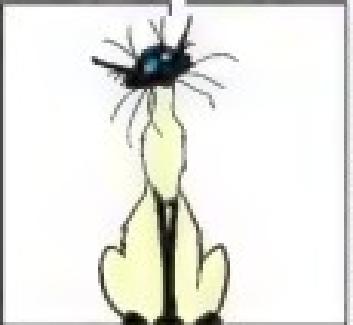




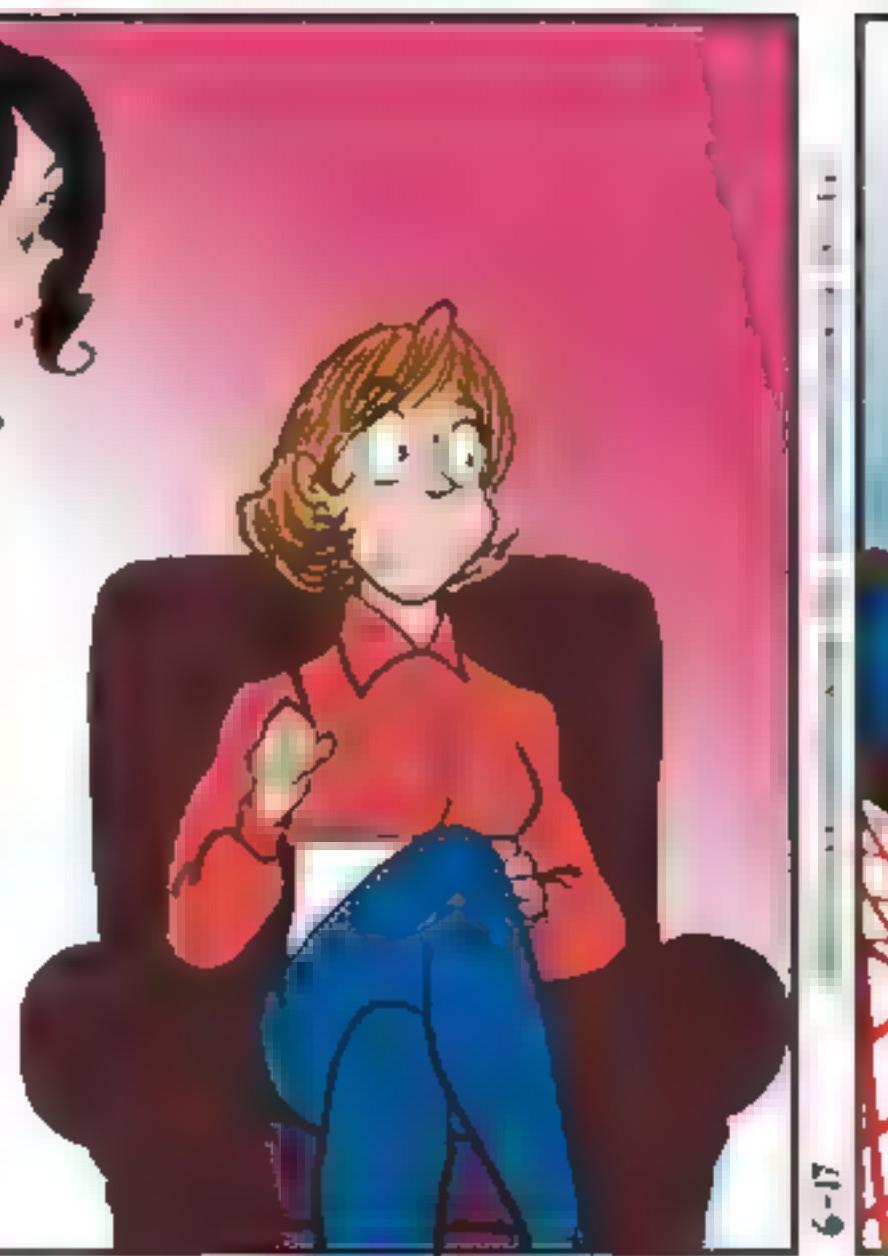
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE
RUN AWAY SO SWIFTLY.
AM I WALKING
BACKWARDS?

LET
ME CHECK.

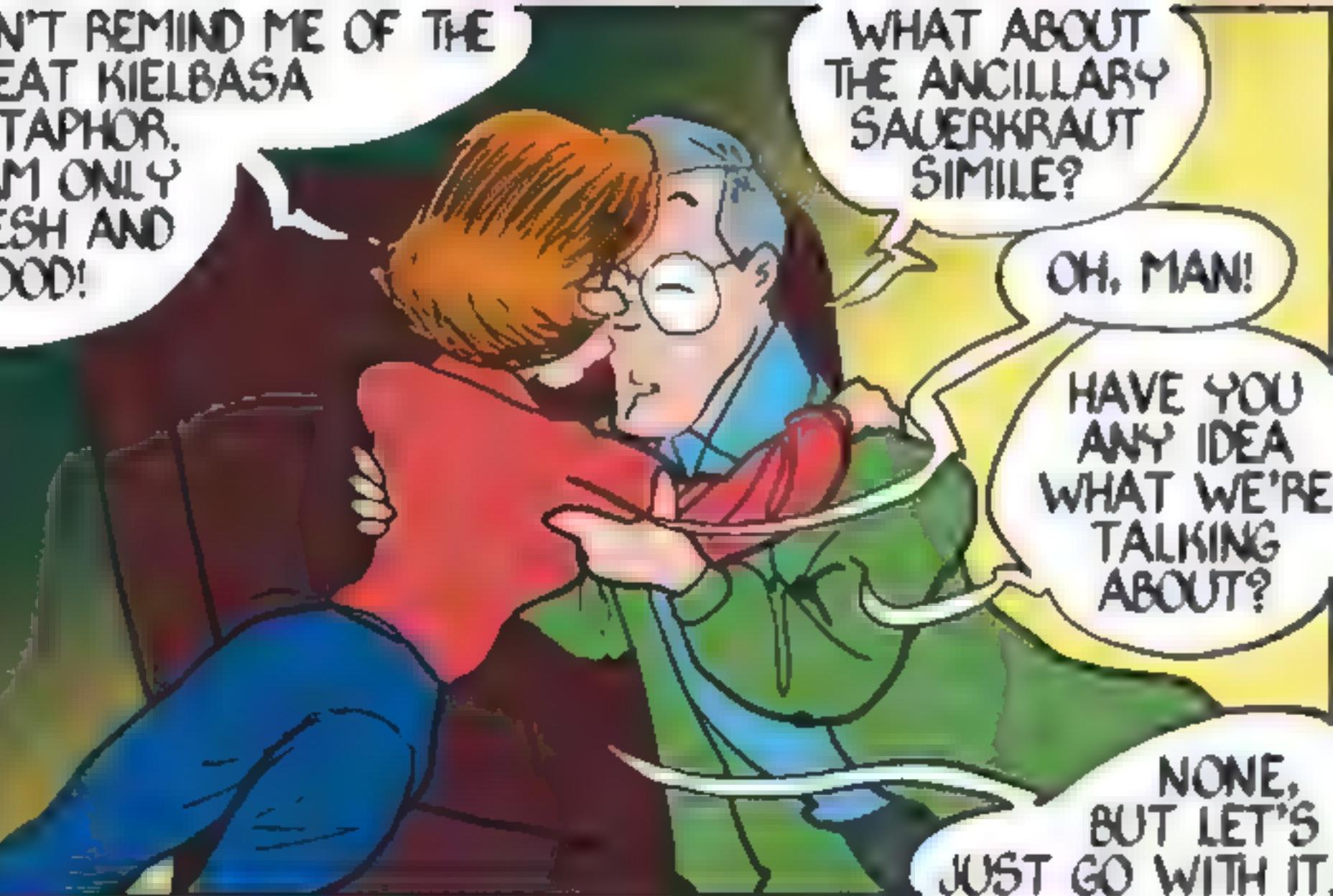
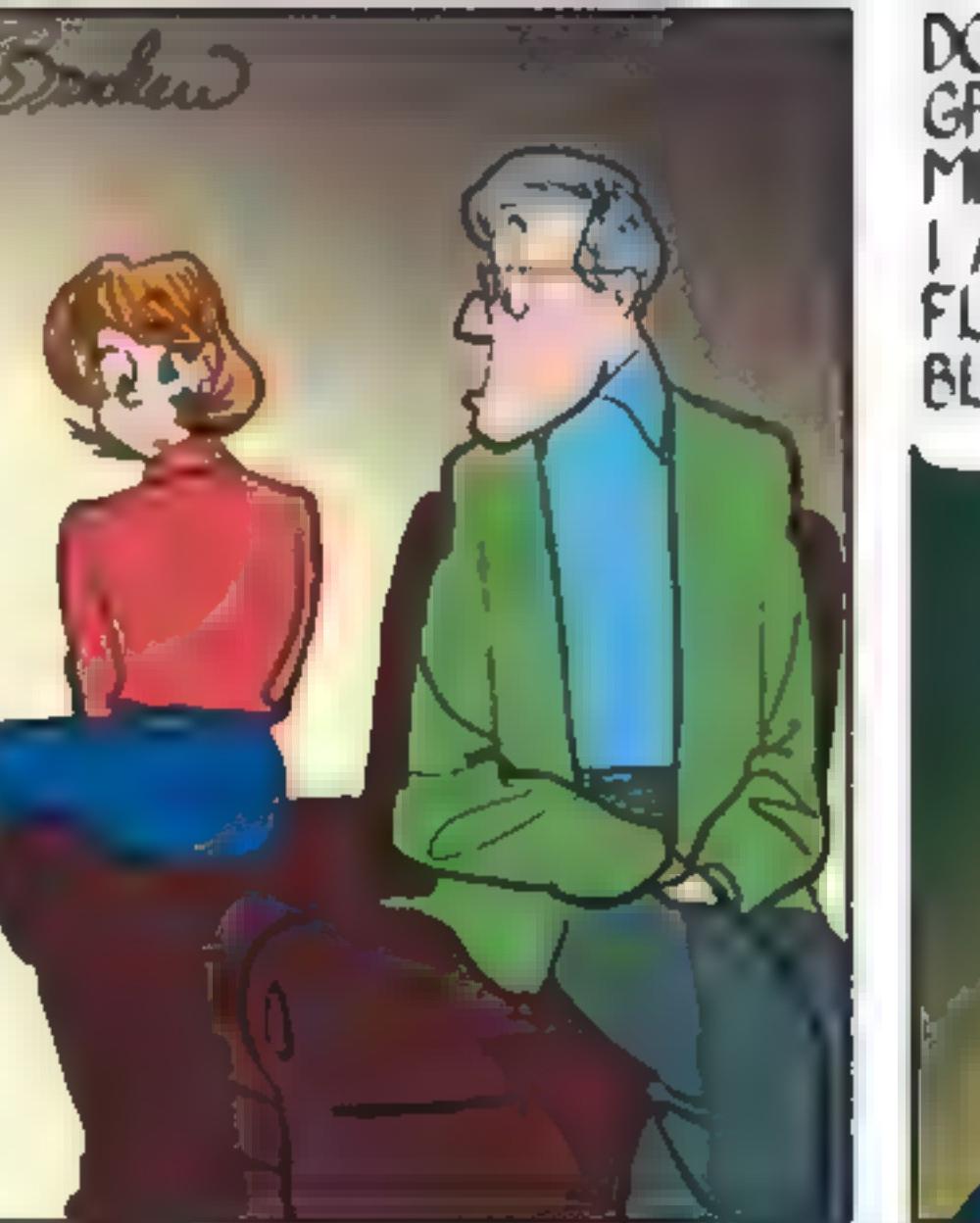
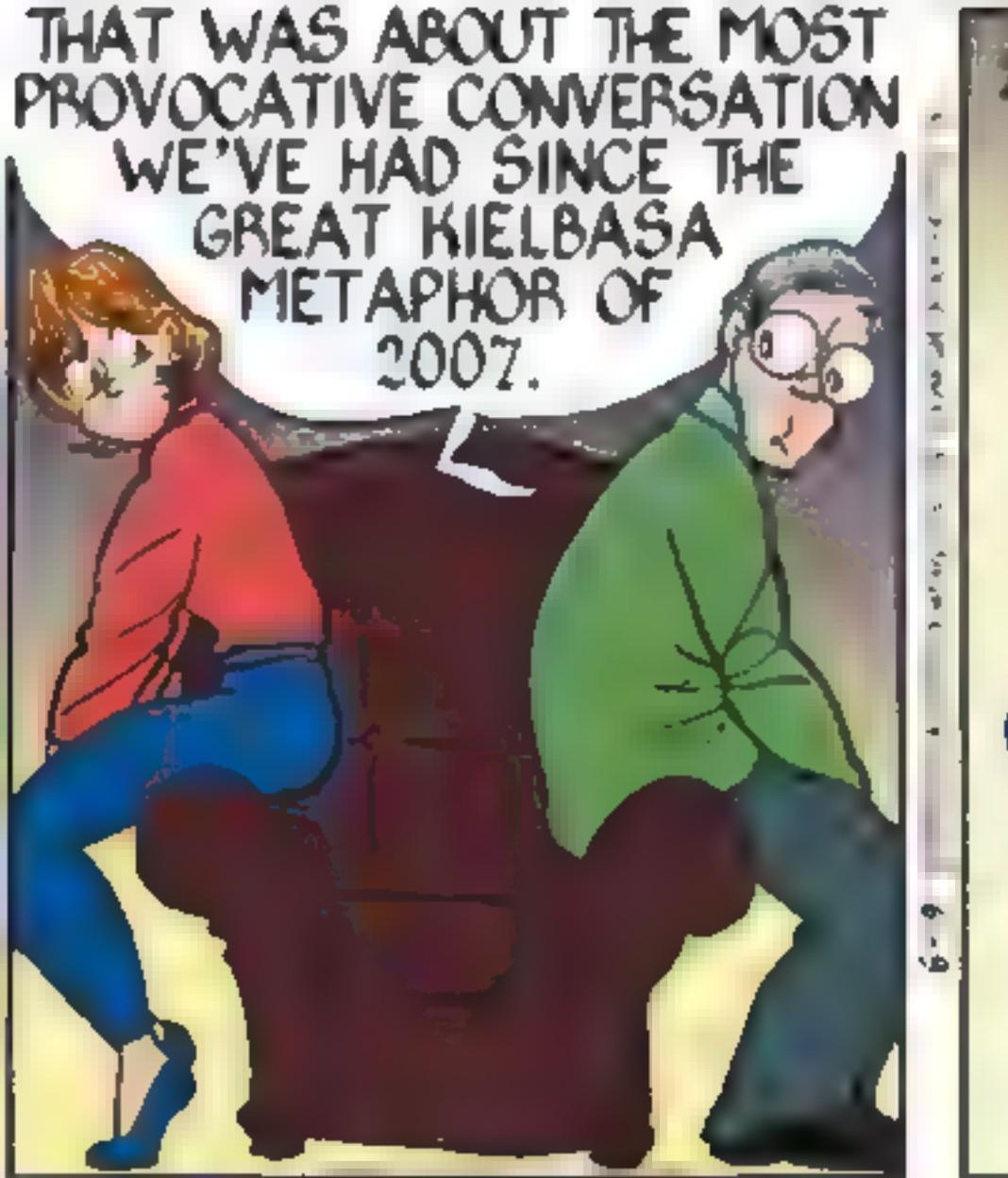


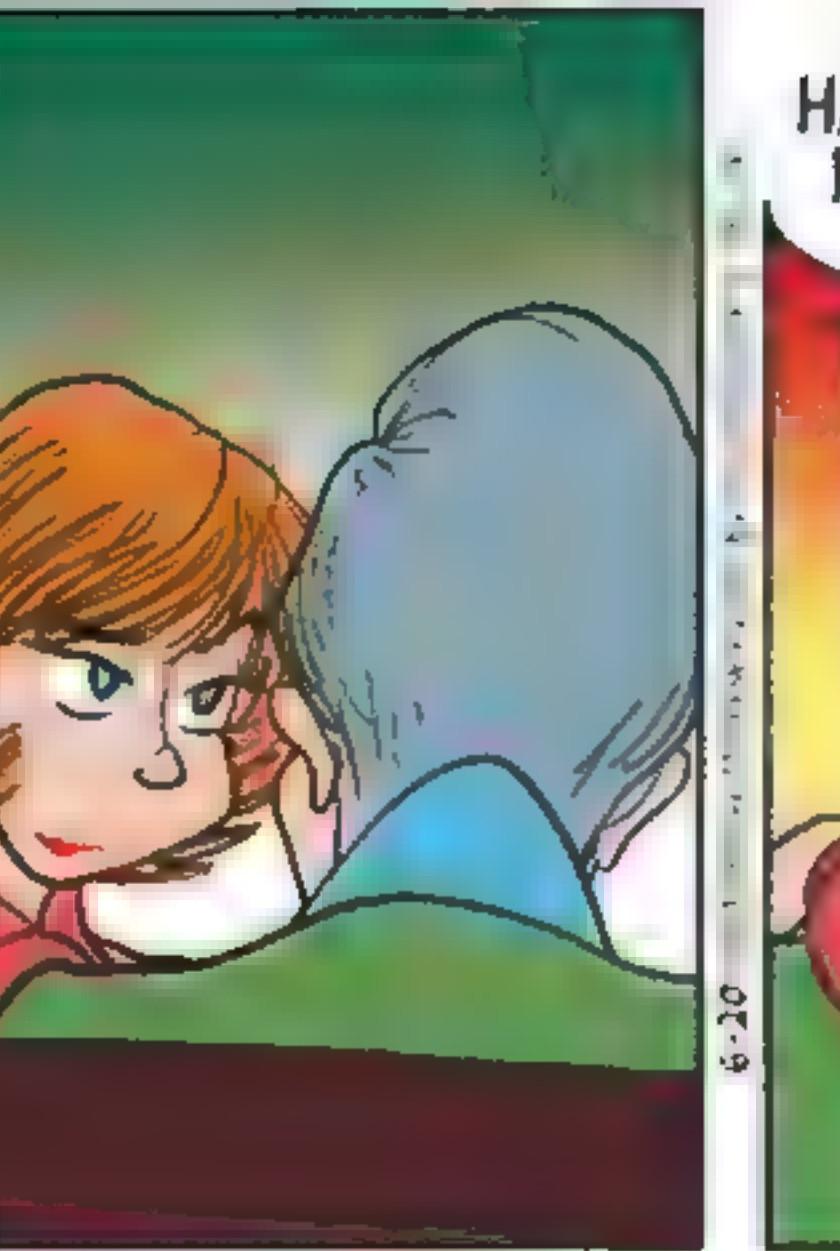
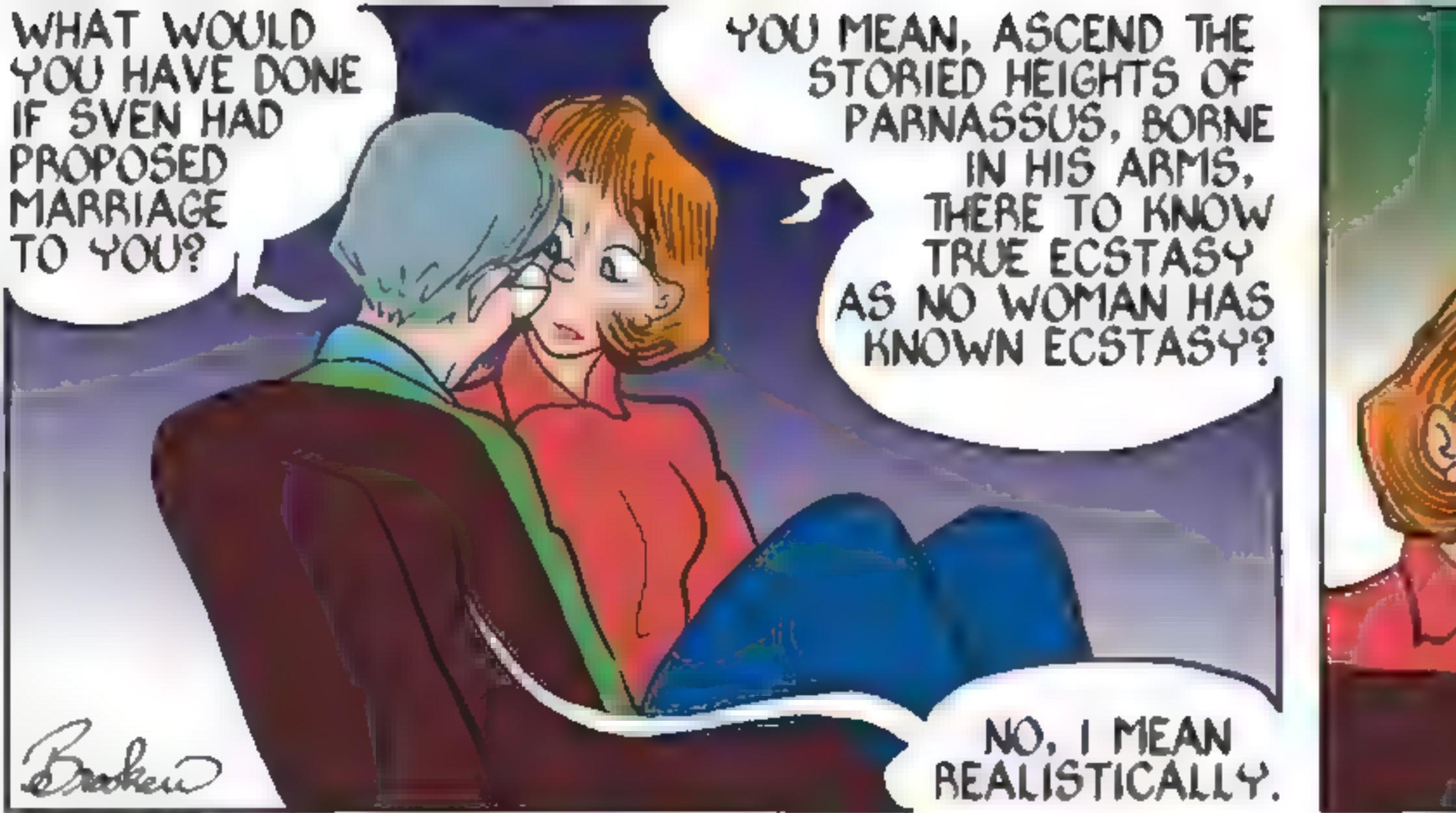


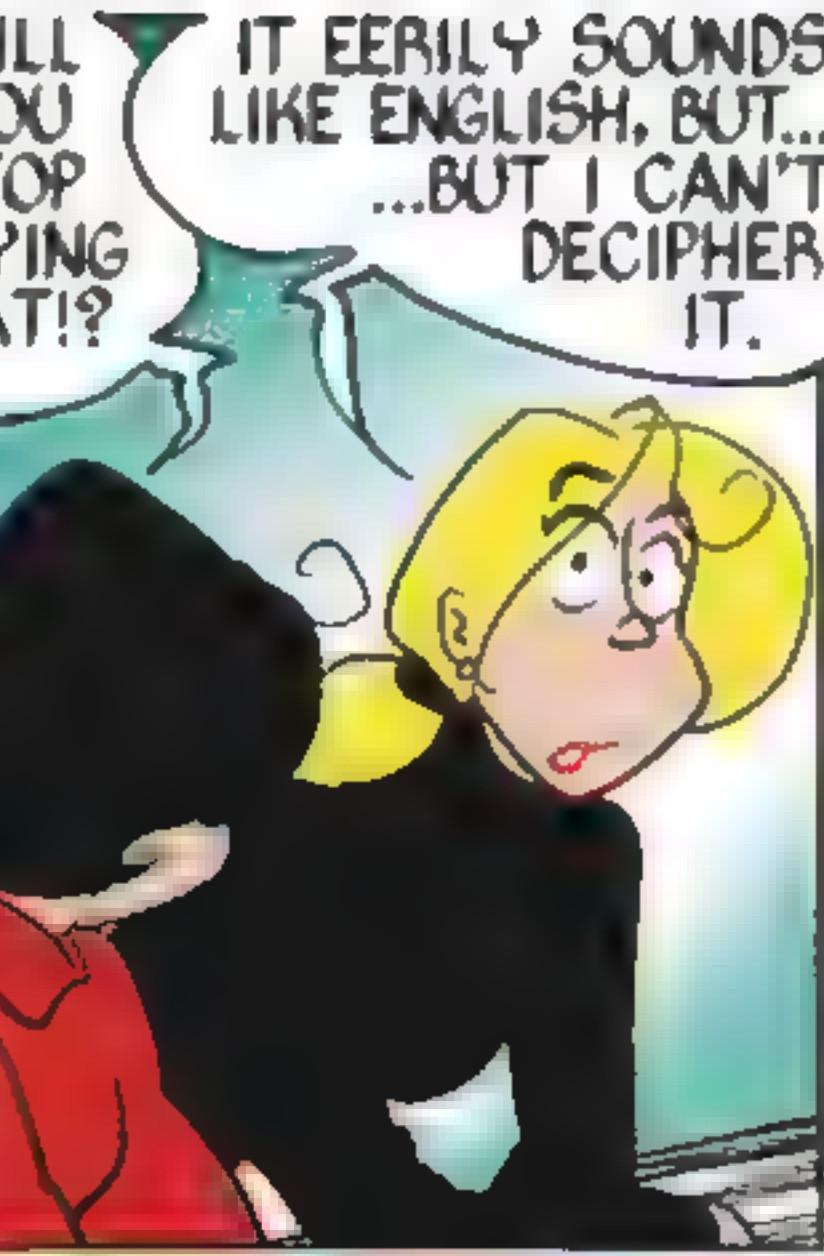
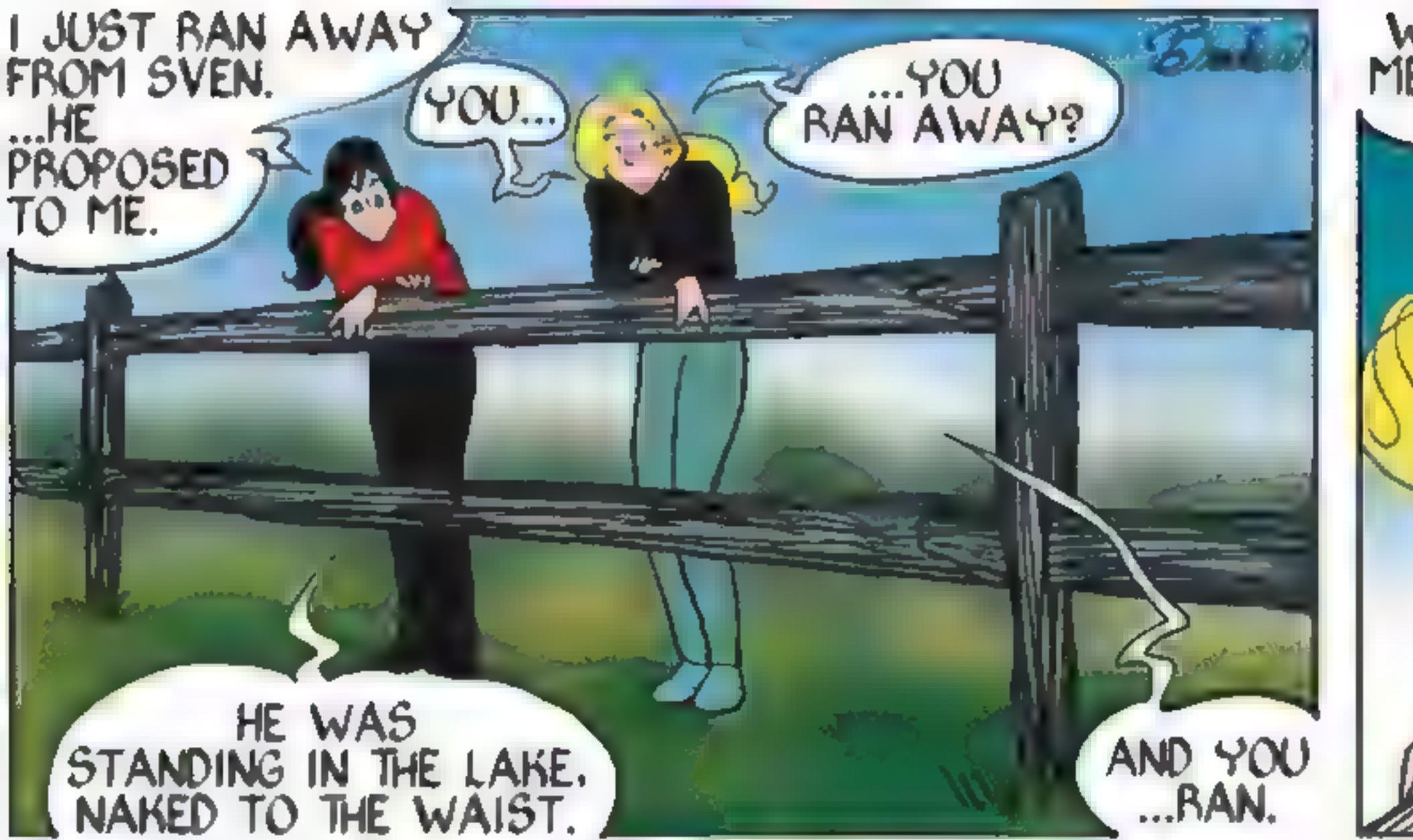
Barker

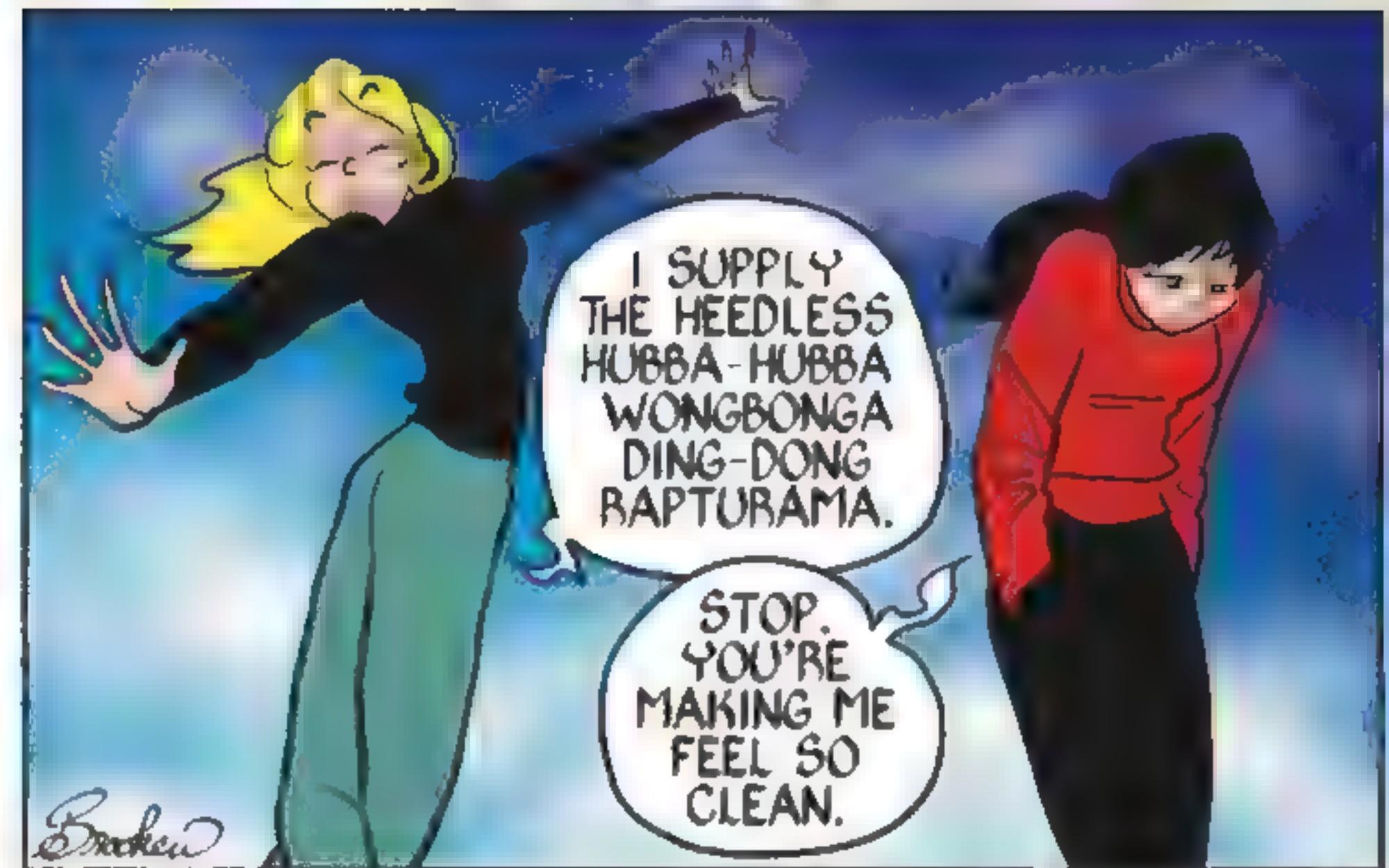
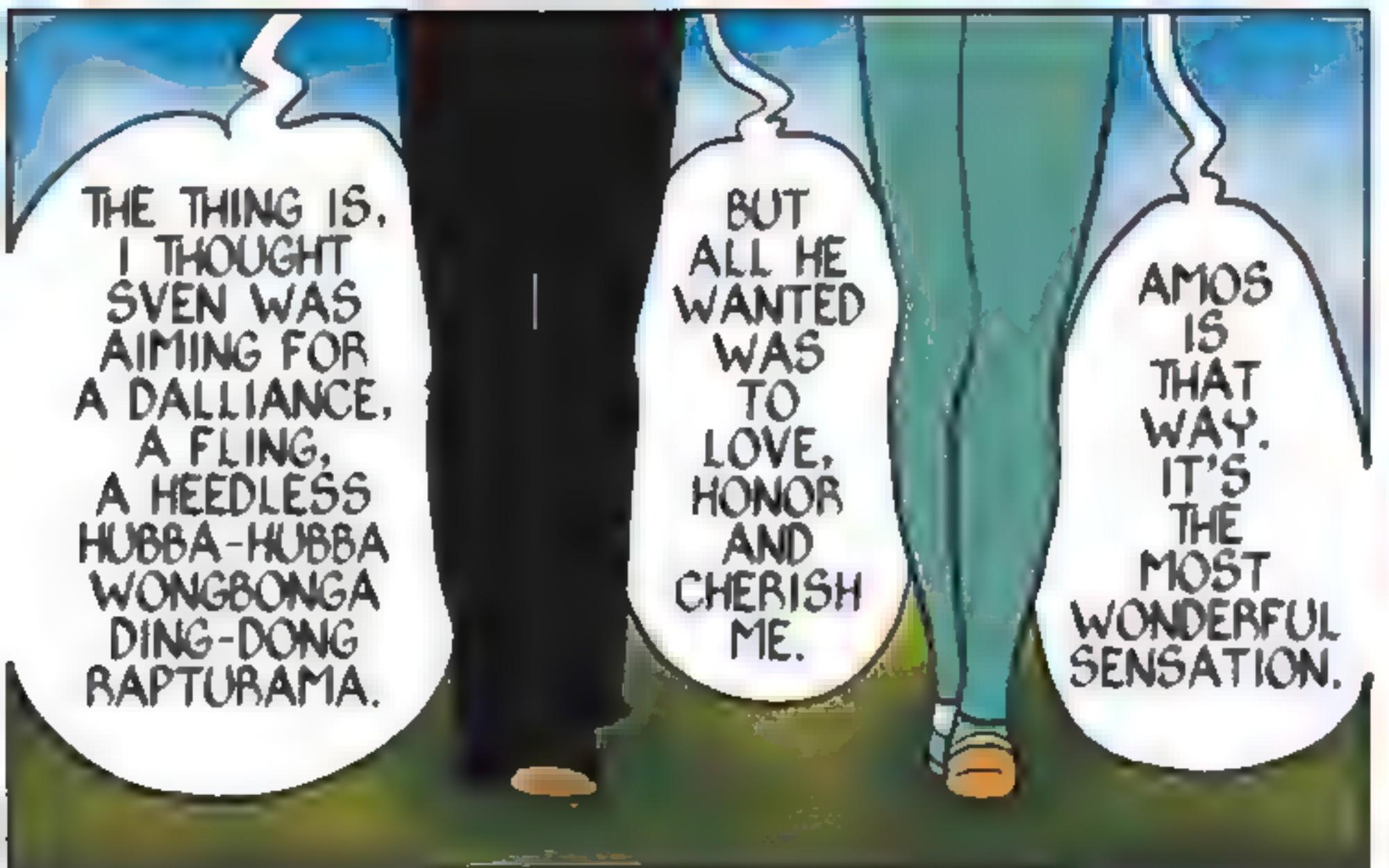




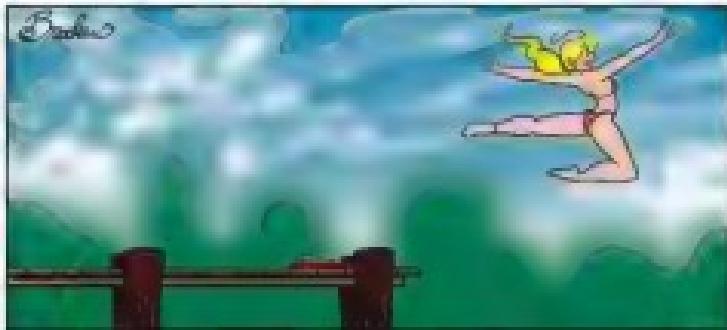




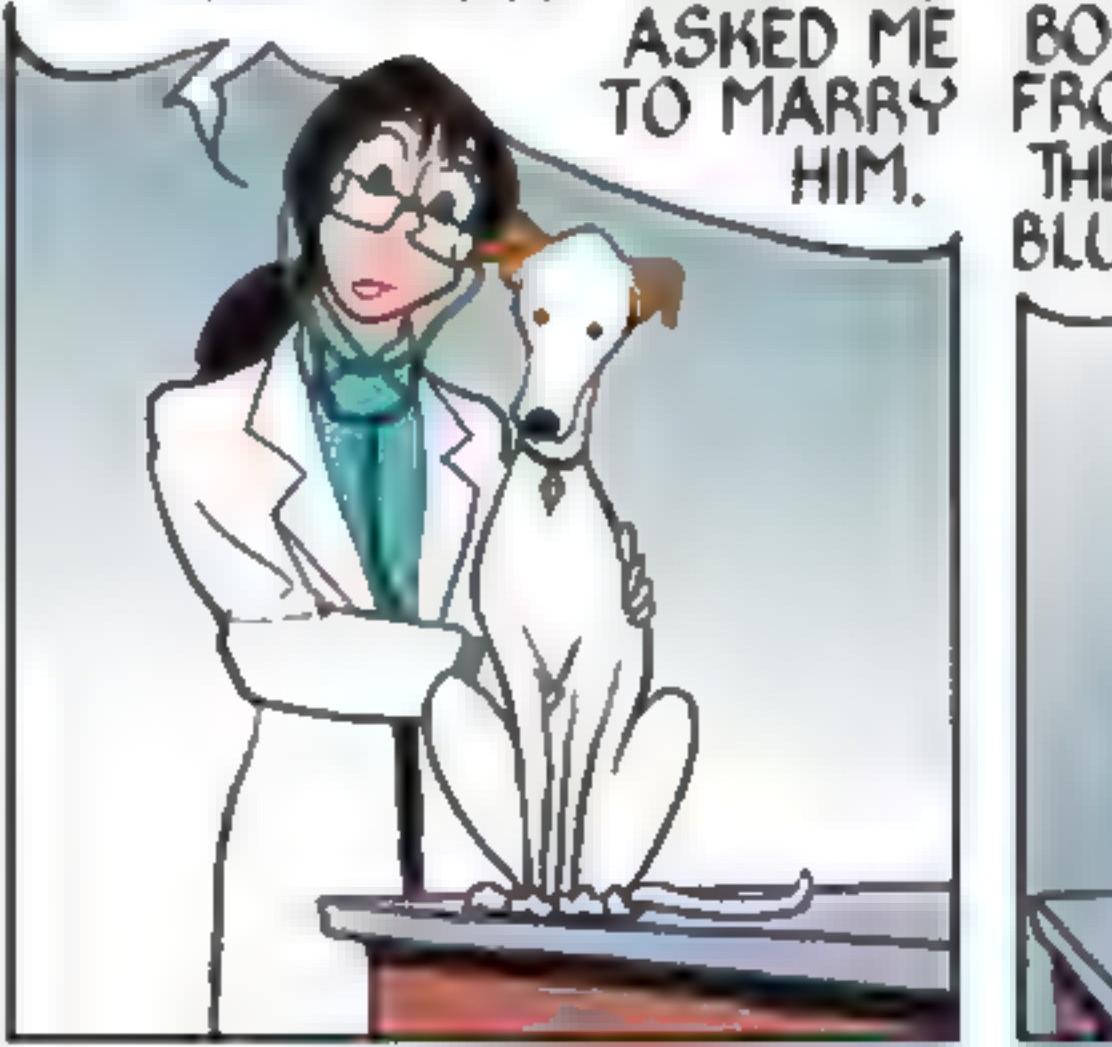




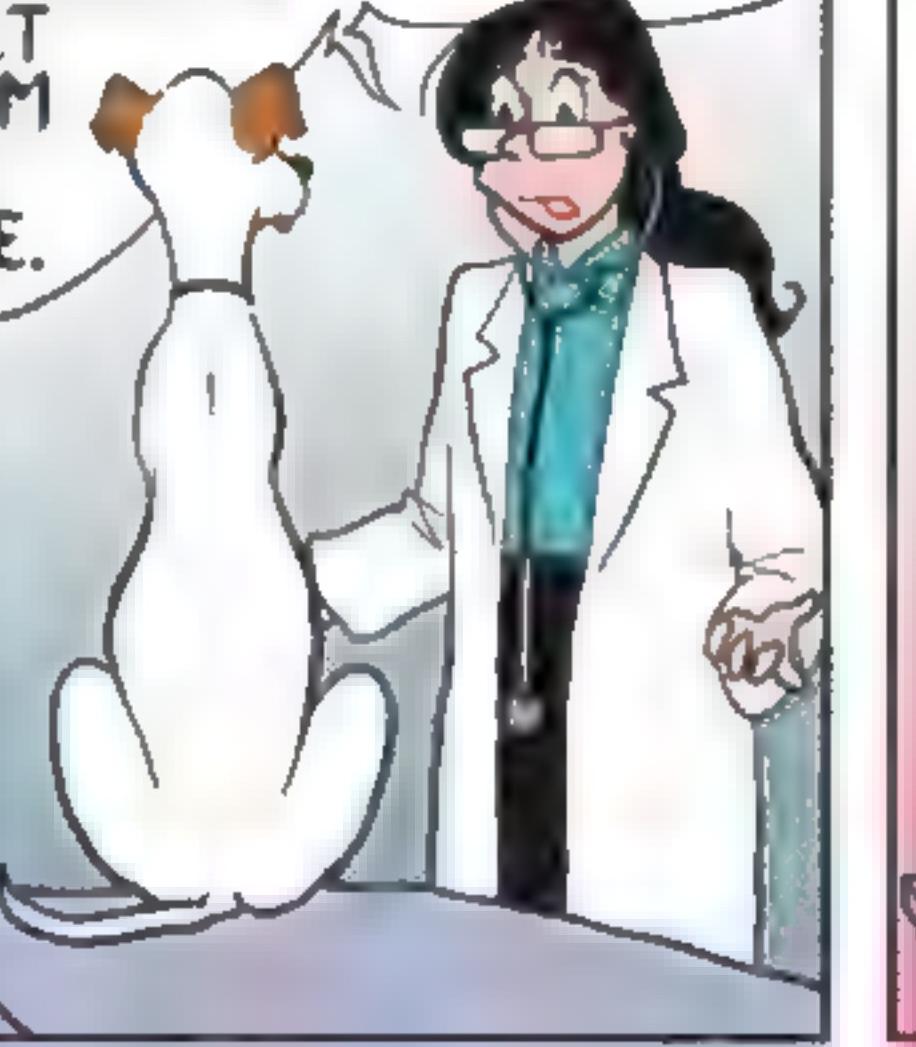
Bracken



YOU COULD HAVE KNOCKED
ME DOWN WITH A FEATHER.
HE JUST STOOD THERE AND
ASKED ME
TO MARRY
HIM.

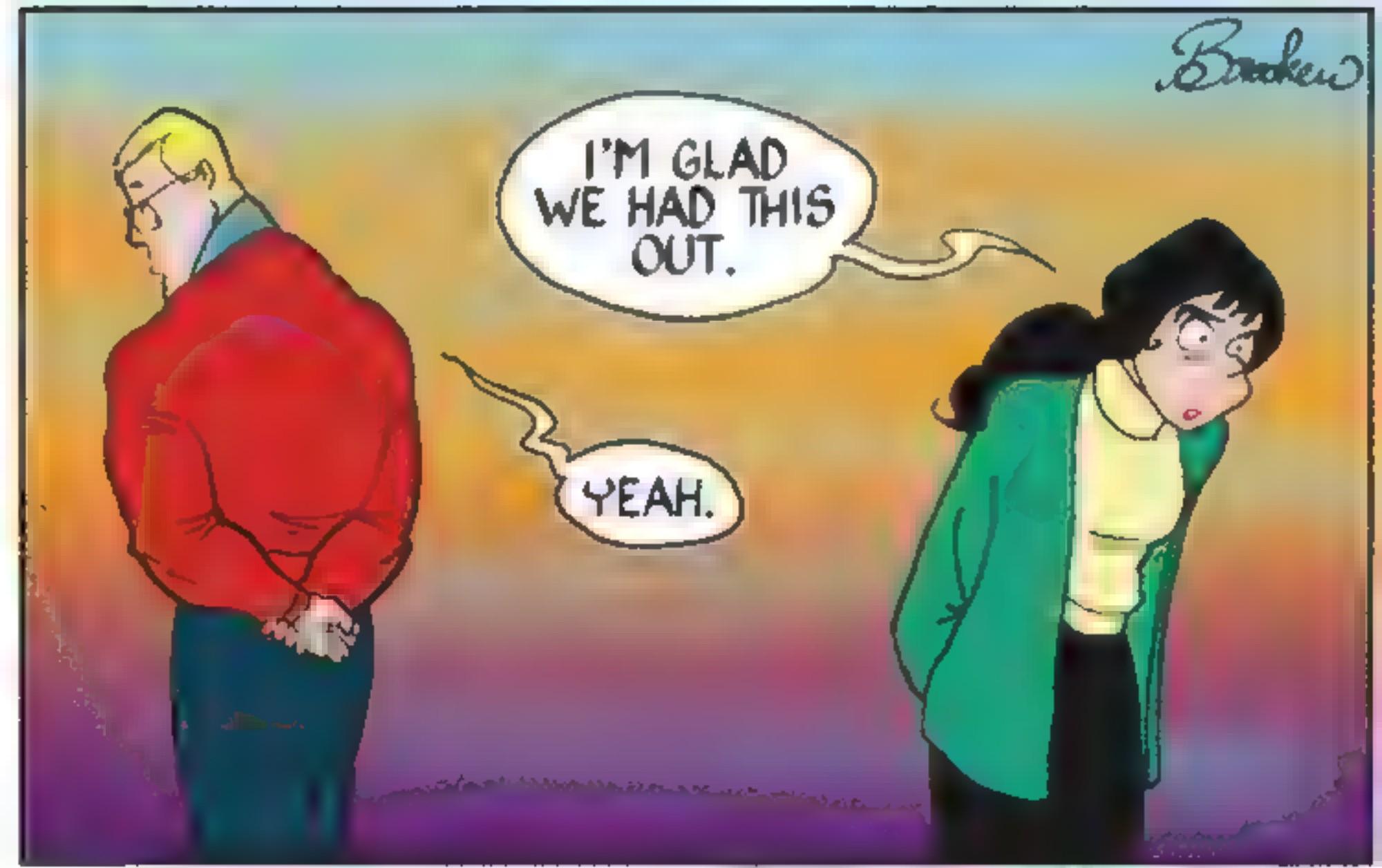
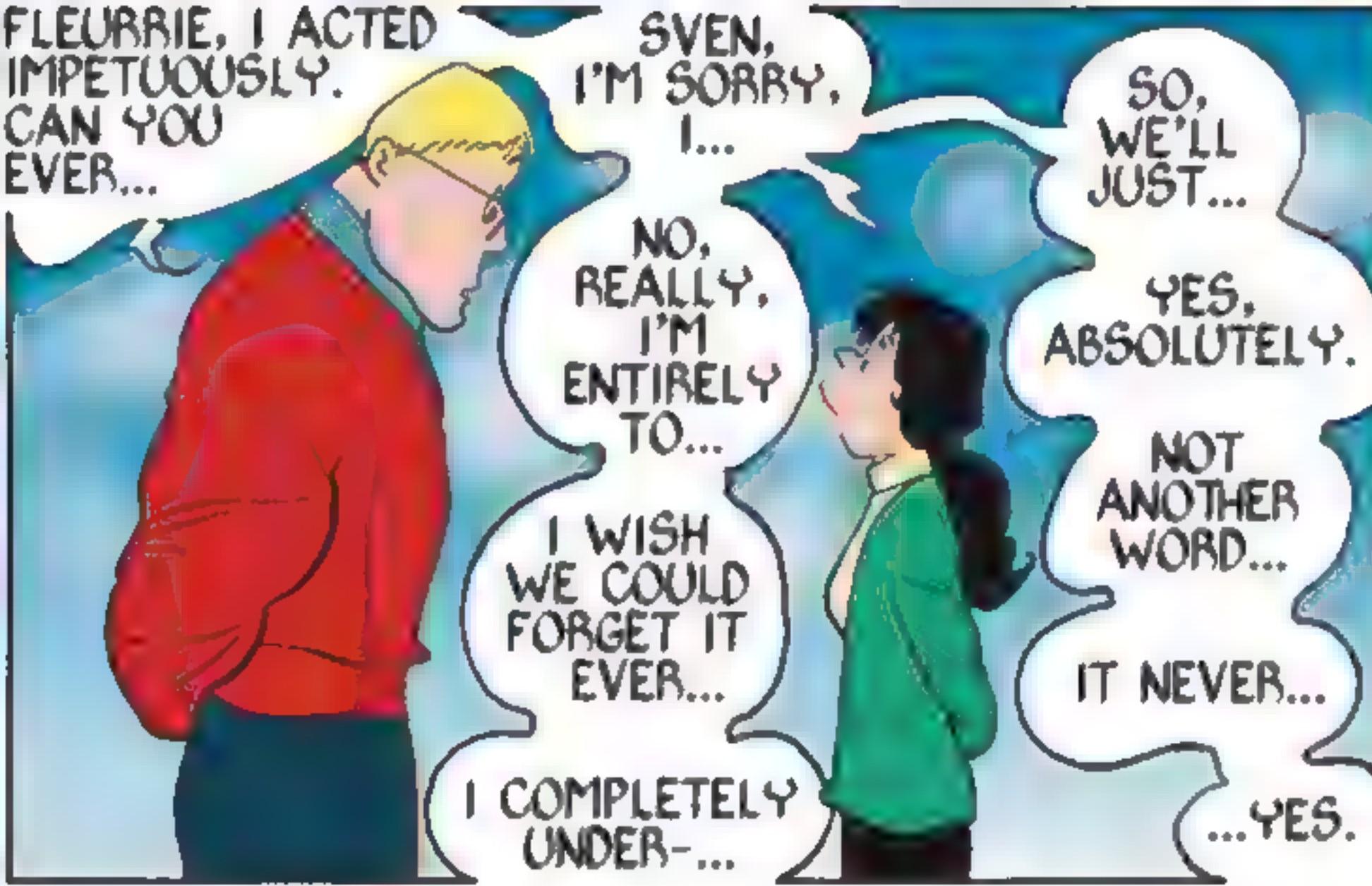


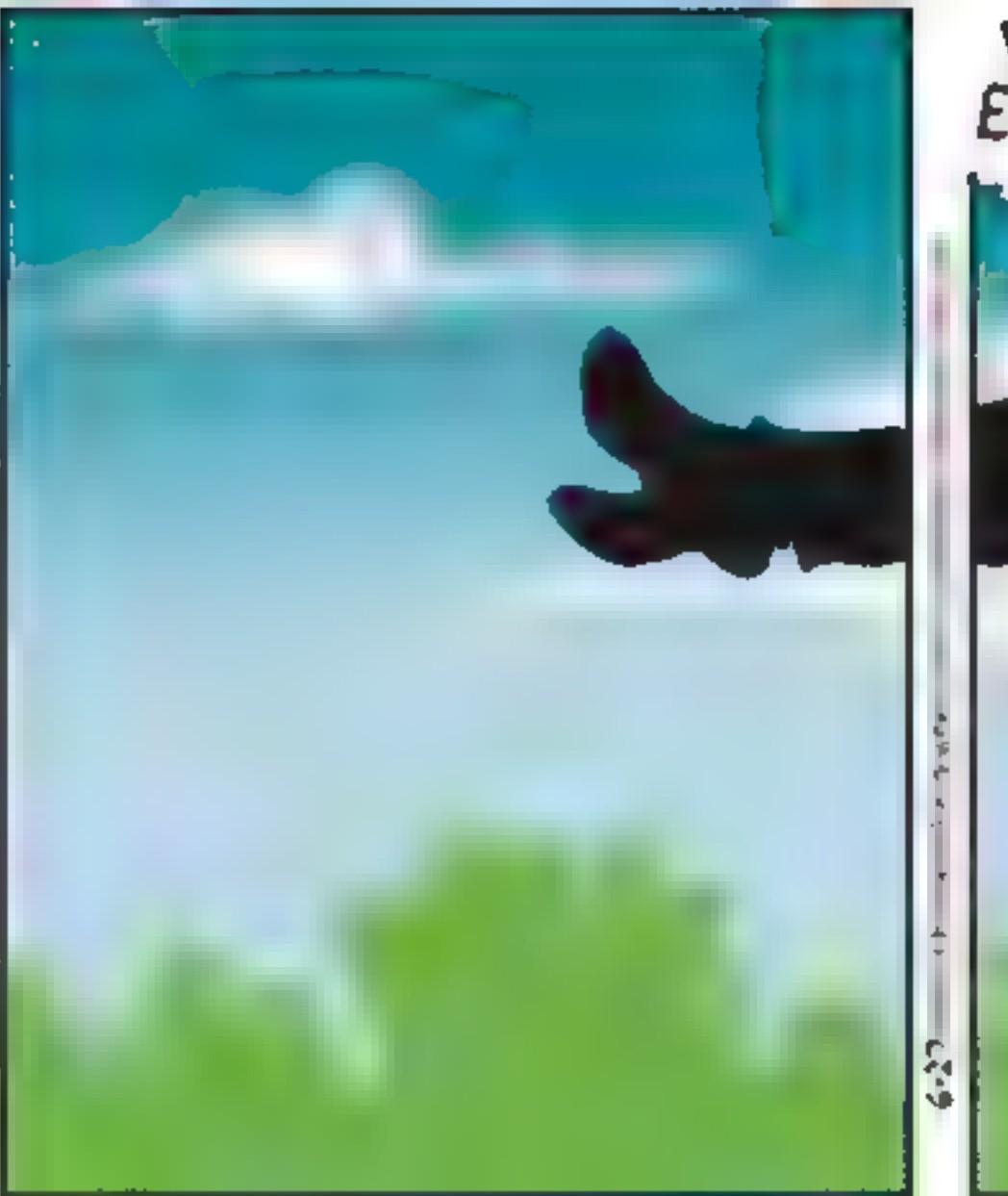
NO WARNING...NO PREAMBLE.
NOT EVEN THE VERIEST HINT.
A COMPLETE
BOLT
FROM
THE
BLUE.

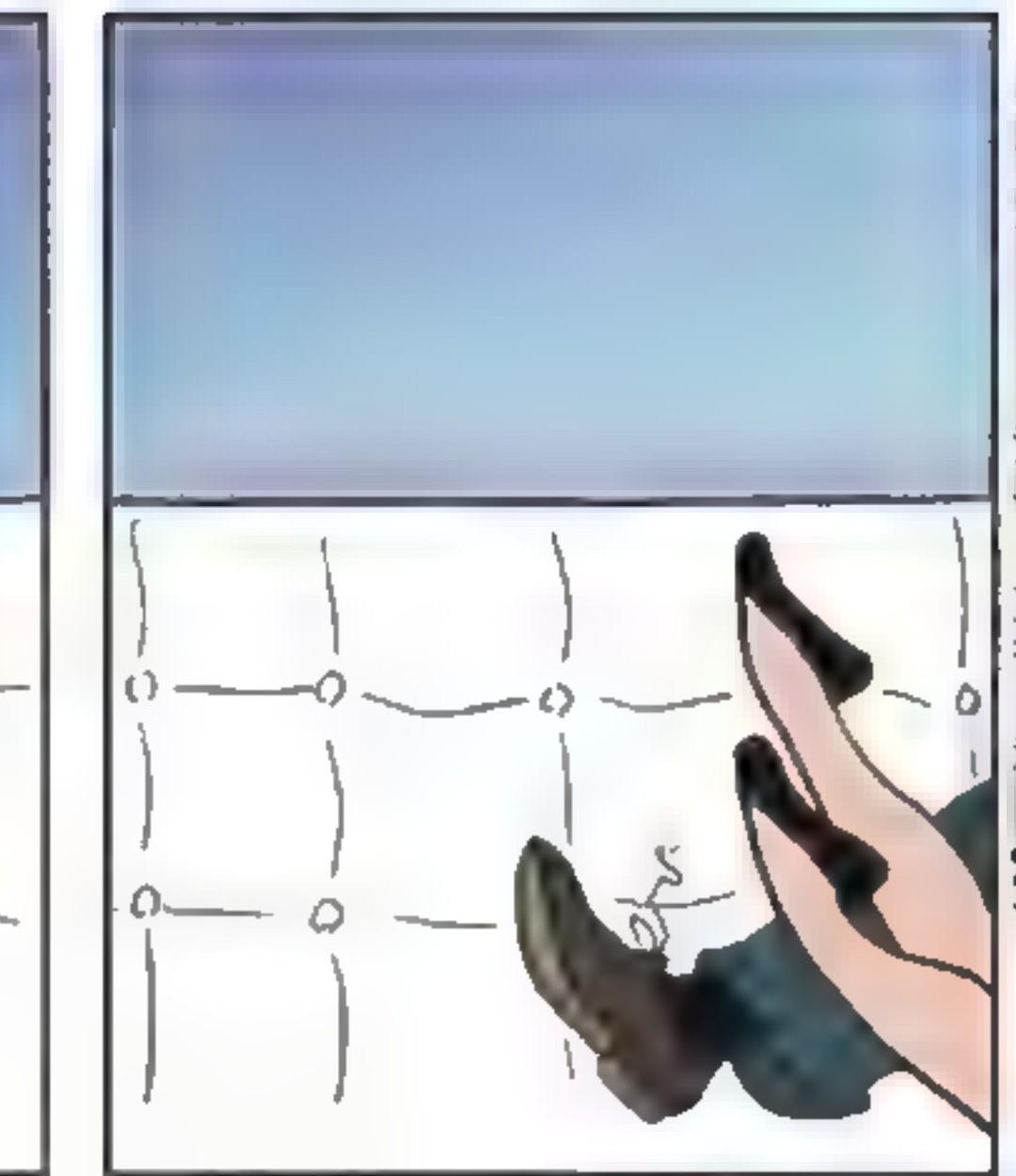
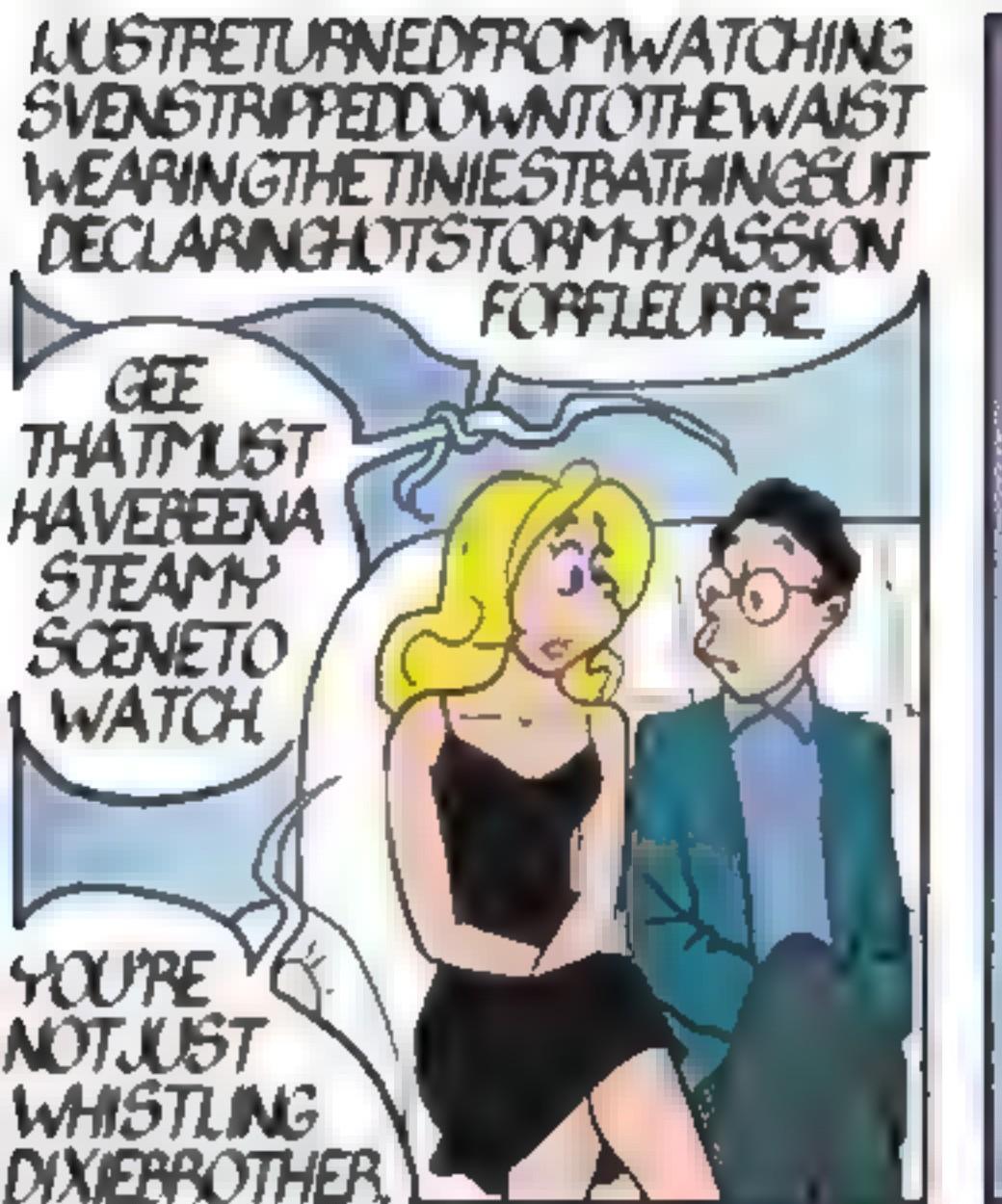


I WAS JUST TALKING TO
THE DOG. NOW, WITHOUT
HEARING HIS OPINION,
I WANT YOUR UNBIASED
VIEW.

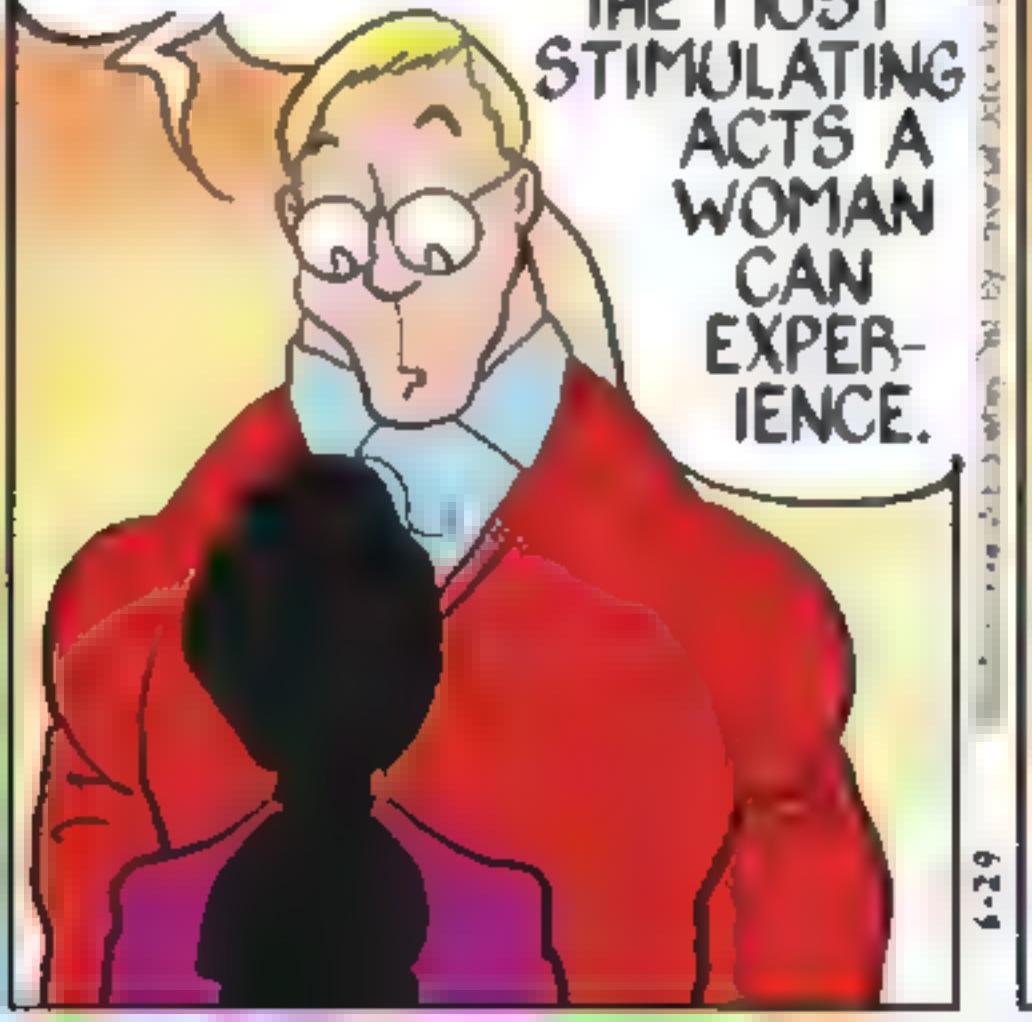




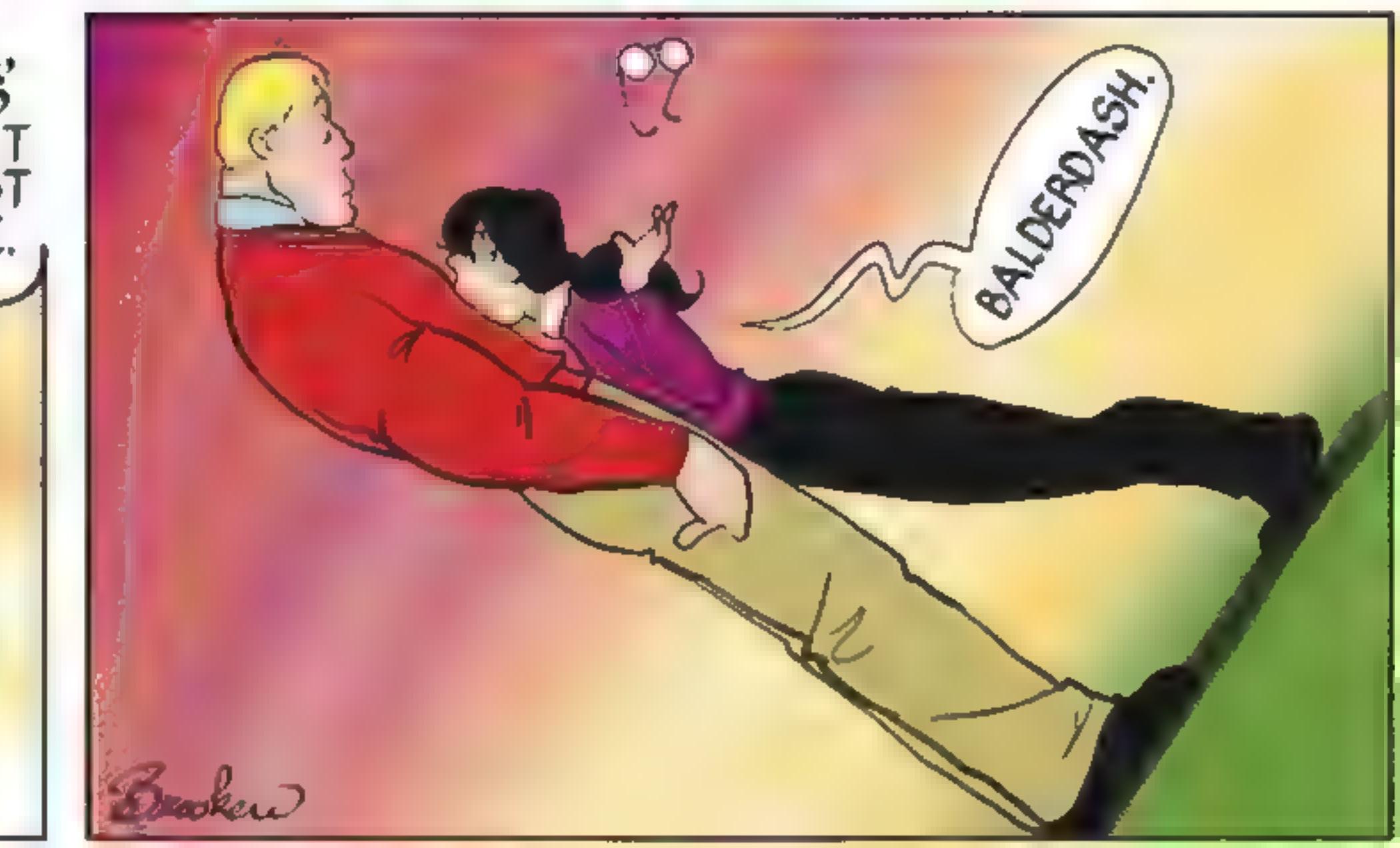




THERE IS A STORY CIRCULATING THAT REMOVING A MAN'S GLASSES IS ONE OF THE MOST STIMULATING ACTS A WOMAN CAN EXPERIENCE.



WELL,
LET'S
GIVE IT
A TEST
DRIVE.



BALDERDASH.

Bracken

9 CHICKWEED LANE

®

STARFLEET FLAGSHIP INTREPID,
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STARDATE
63244397776132776.56.
WE HAVE
JUST ENTERED
VIA A QUANTUM
ANOMALY.
A SECTOR OF
THE GALAXY
HERETOFORE
UNEXPLORED
BY...

EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN.
DO YOU SAY THIS IS
6324439777613
2776.56?

UH...YES I DID,
COMMANDER.

ARE YOU SURE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS
63244397776132775.34.
IS IT ALREADY 63244
397776132776.56?

YES, IT IS.

MAN, THE STAR-
DATES JUST FLY
PAST WHEN YOU'RE
OUT BOLDLY GOING.

I KNOW WHAT YOU
MEAN, COMMANDER.

ENSIGN CORONNA'S
BIRTHDAY WAS ON
63244397776132775.41.

I WAS GOING TO TAKE
HER OUT TO DINNER AND,
WITH A LITTLE LUCK,
SPLIT A FEW
INFINITIVES.



SORRY,
COMMANDER.
WE IN STAR-
FLEET DON'T
FUDGE OUR
STARDATES.



I
GUESS
I CAN
KISS
THAT
PLAN
GOOD—



FOR THESE FEDERATION FLAG-
SHIPS, YOU HAVE TO BOLDLY
PUT YOUR BACK
INTO IT.

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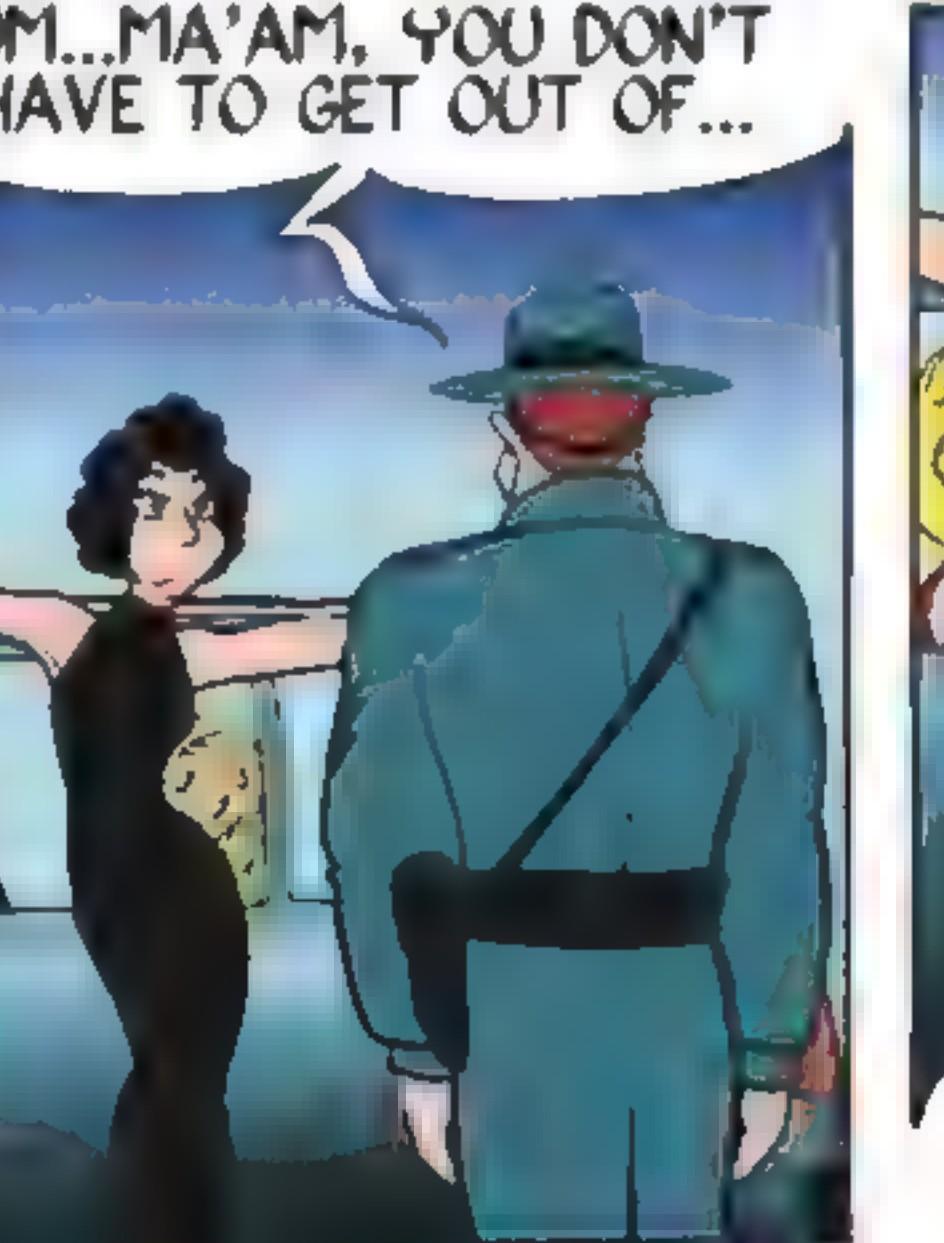
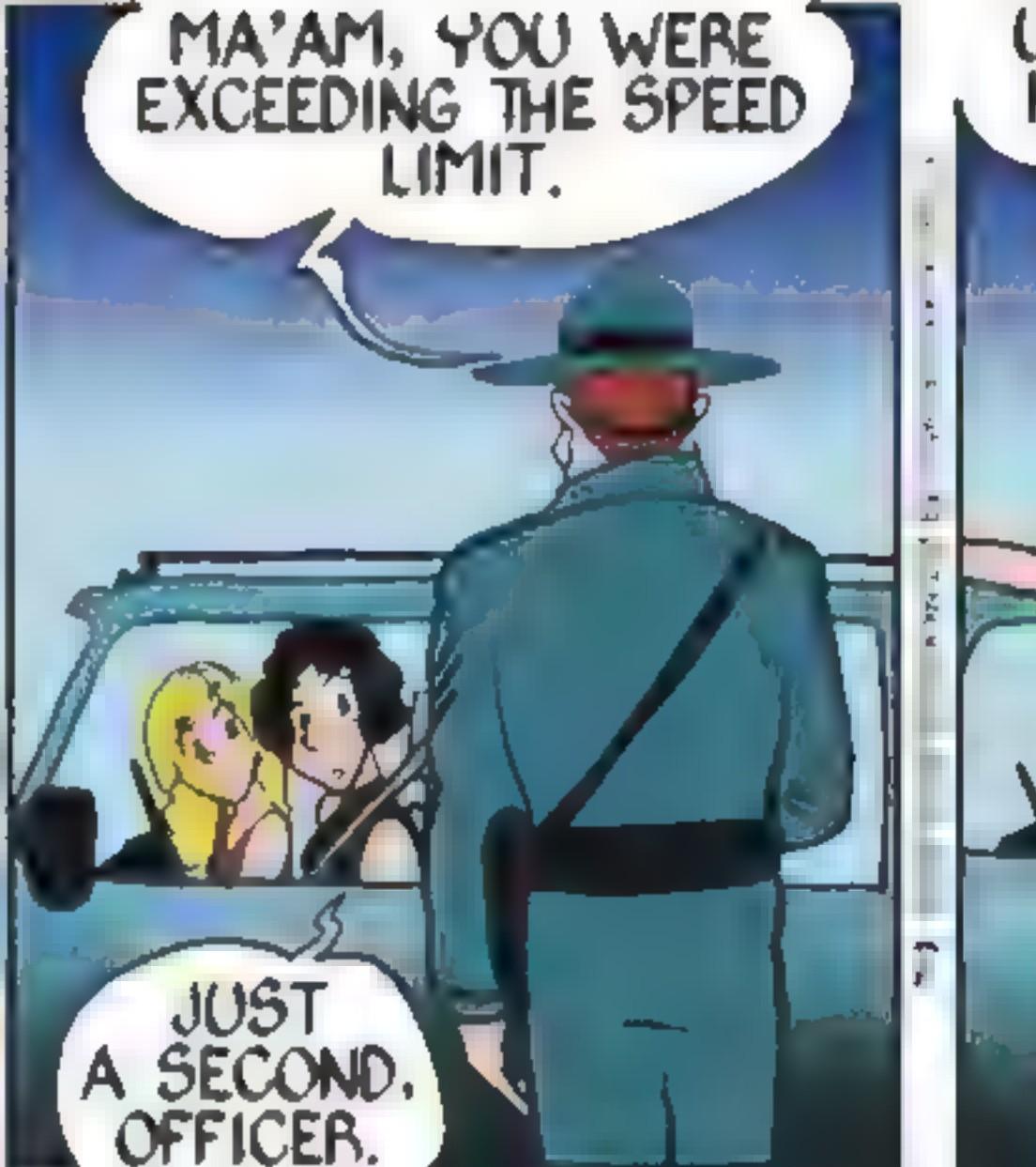
I FEEL YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT WHEN
YOU STRIKE
A SEXY
CONTRAPPOSTO
STANCE
AS A WAY
TO VANQUISH
ME IN FRIENDLY
DEBATE, YOU
ARE EMPLOYING
A FEMININE WILE.
THEREFORE, I SHOULD
BE PERMITTED TO USE
A MASCULINE
WILE.

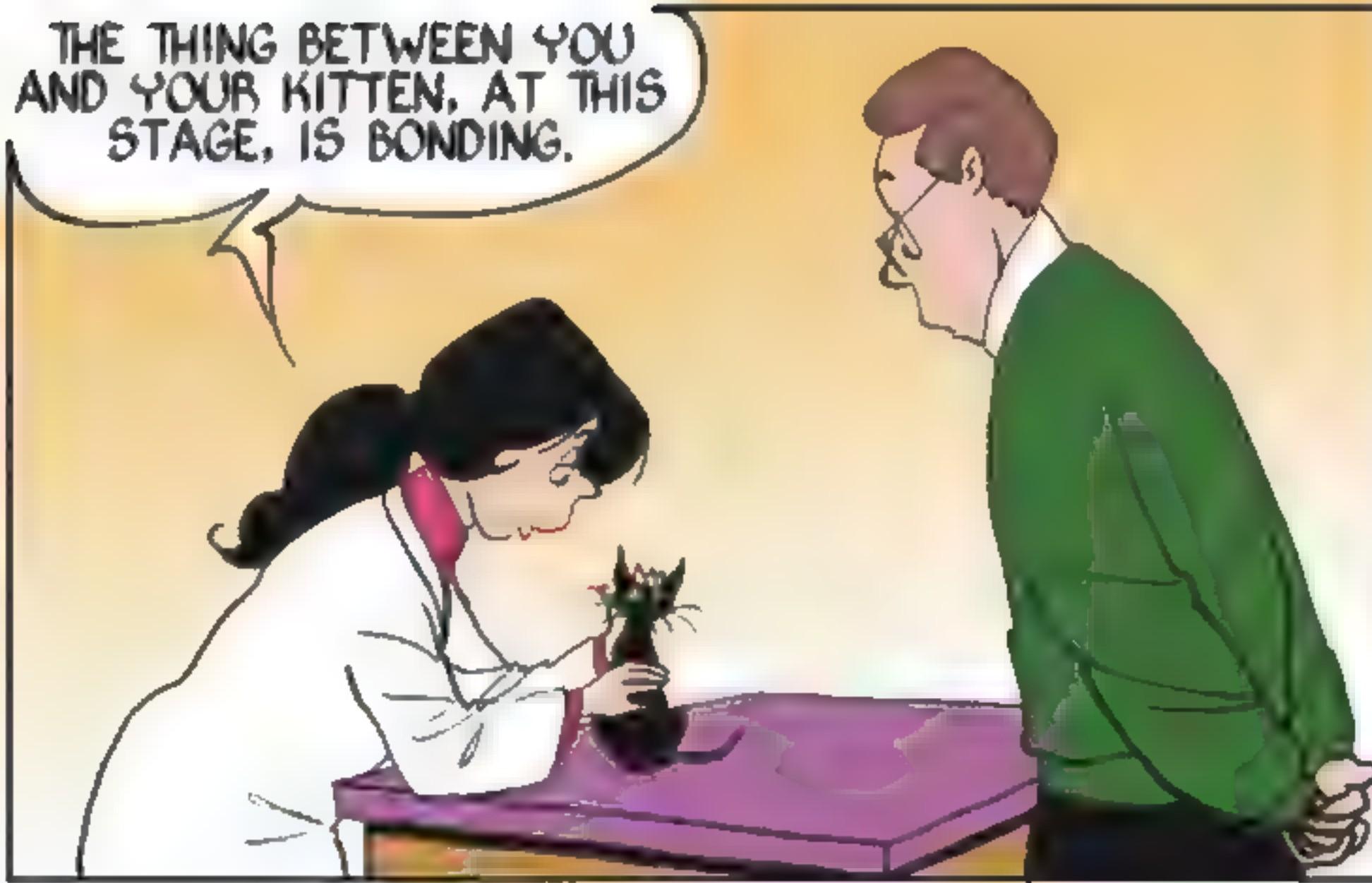
VERY
WELL.
ONE WILE
EACH.

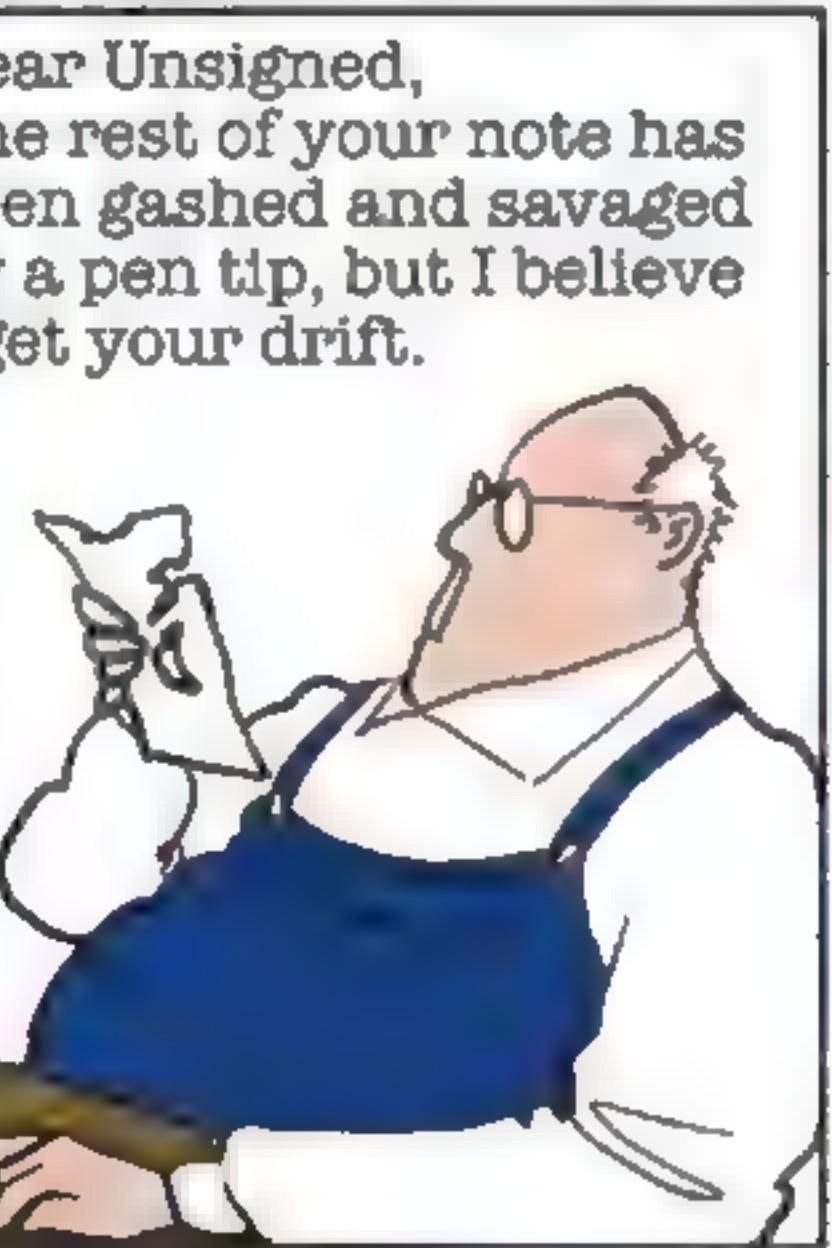
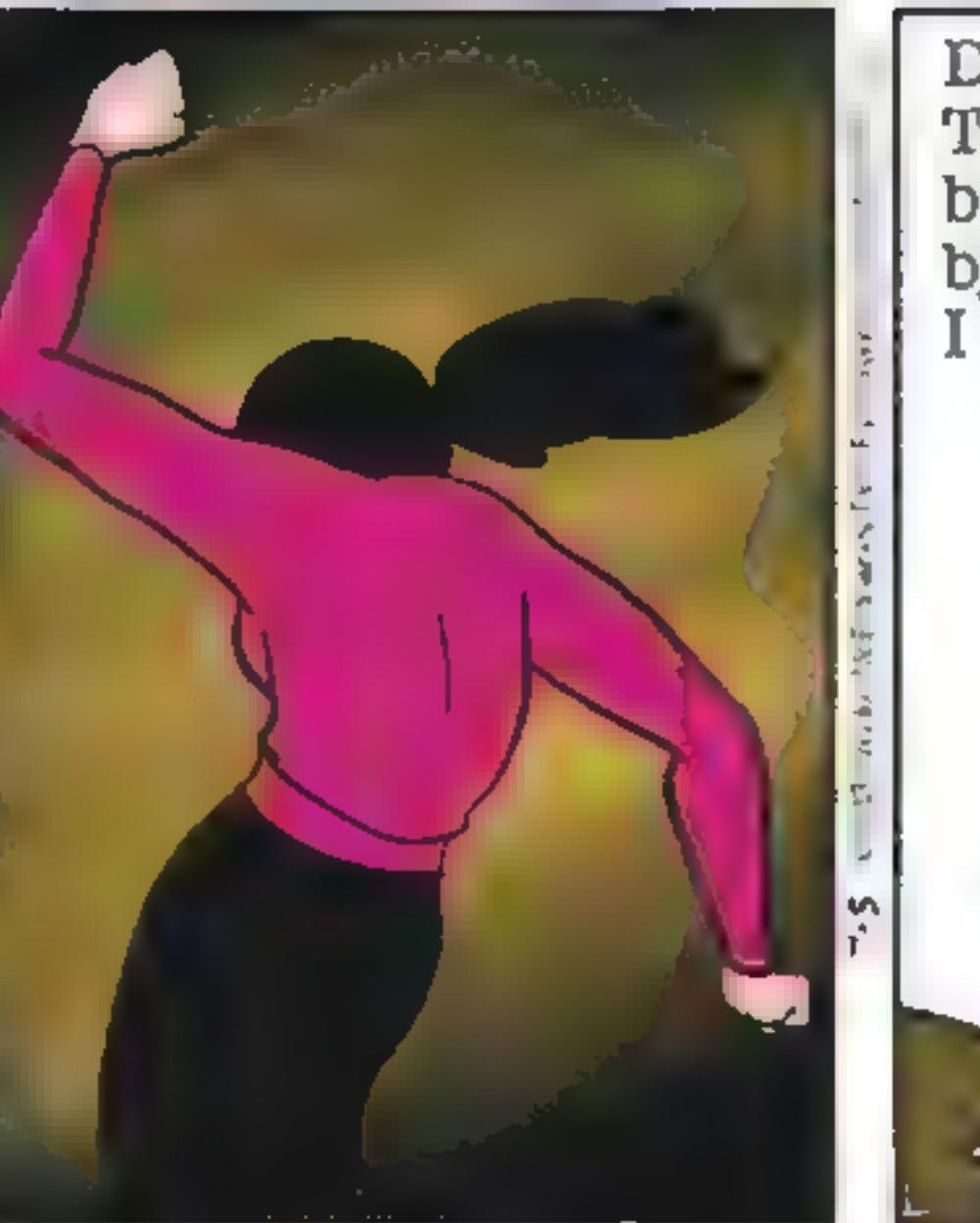


THAT'S
AN EIGHT-
BY-TEN
PUBLICITY
GLOSSY
OF CLARK
GABLE.

IT'S THE
ONLY WILE
I HAVE.



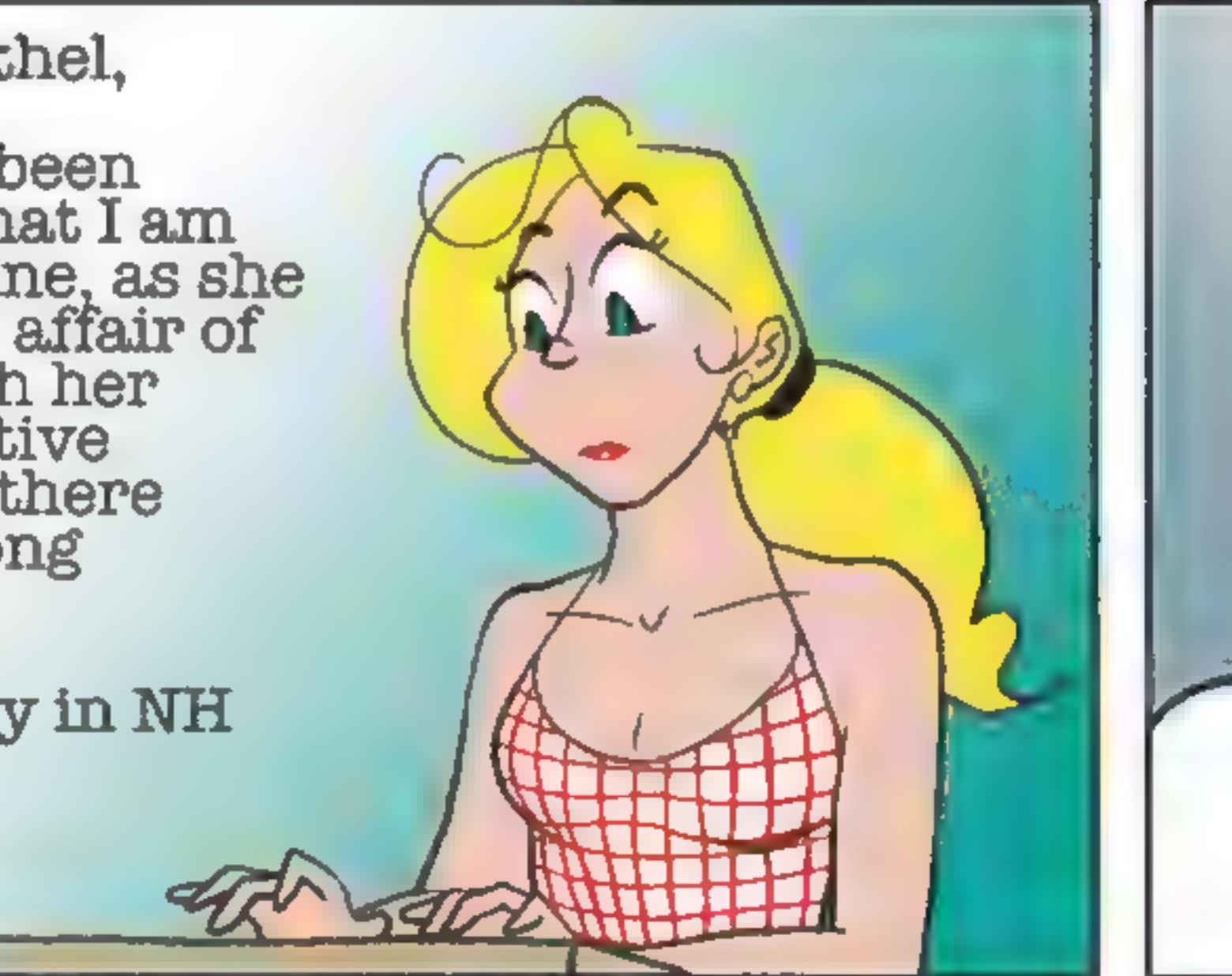




Dear Uncle Ethel,

Secretly I've been fantasizing that I am a friend of mine, as she carries on an affair of the heart with her highly attractive boyfriend. Is there anything wrong with this?

Slightly Guilty in NH



Speaking as a professional in this area of concern, I can say that you are doing nothing to cause the slightest disquiet.

Sincerely,
John Wayne
Space Concubine
Of The Apes

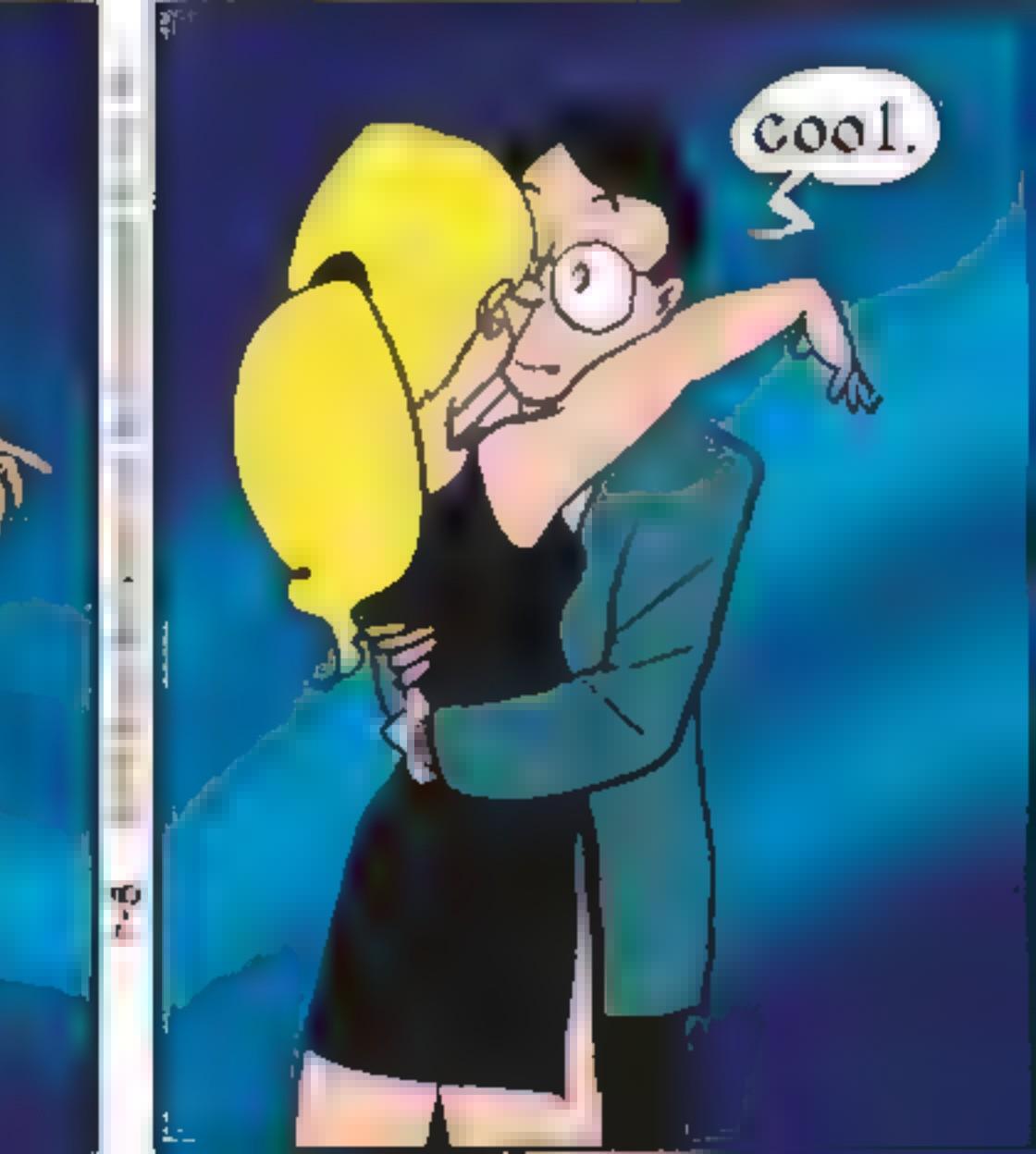
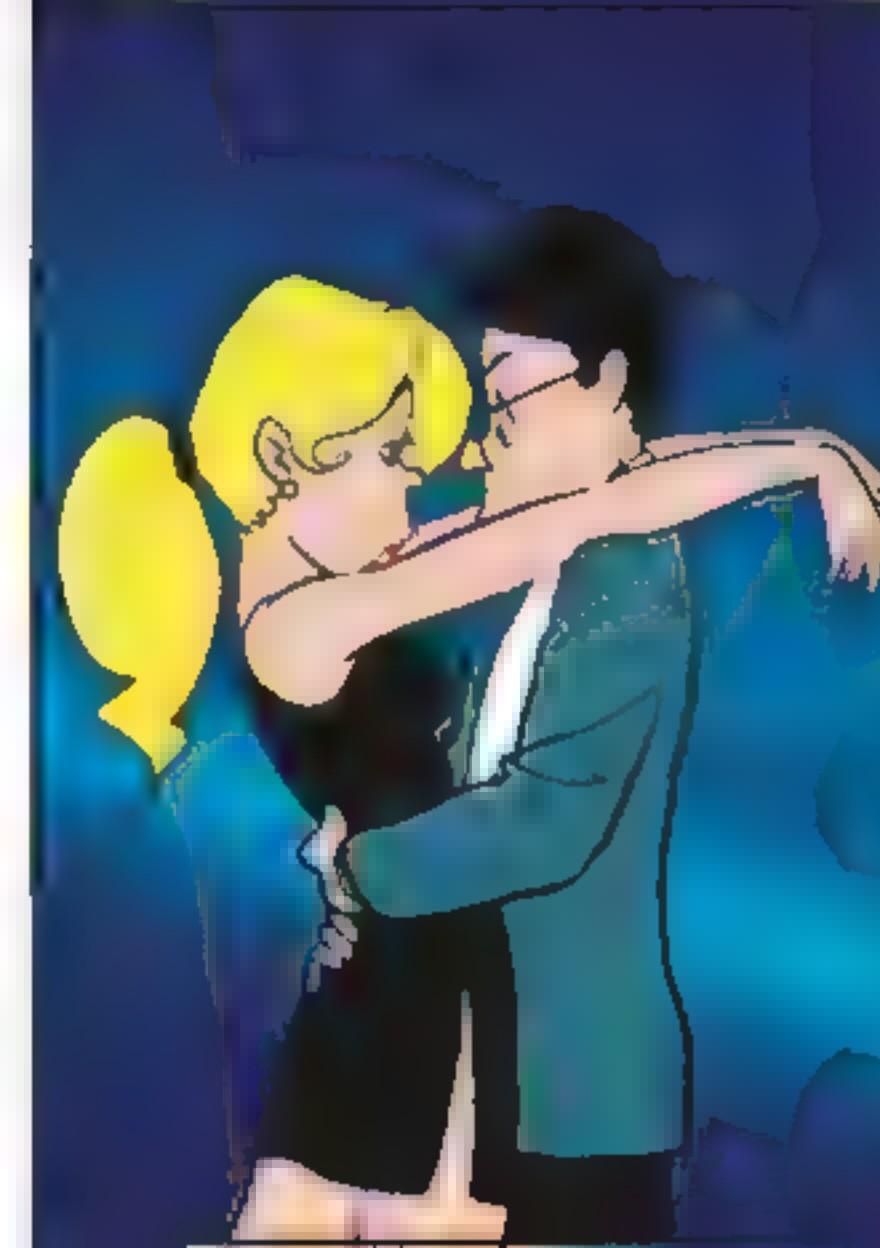






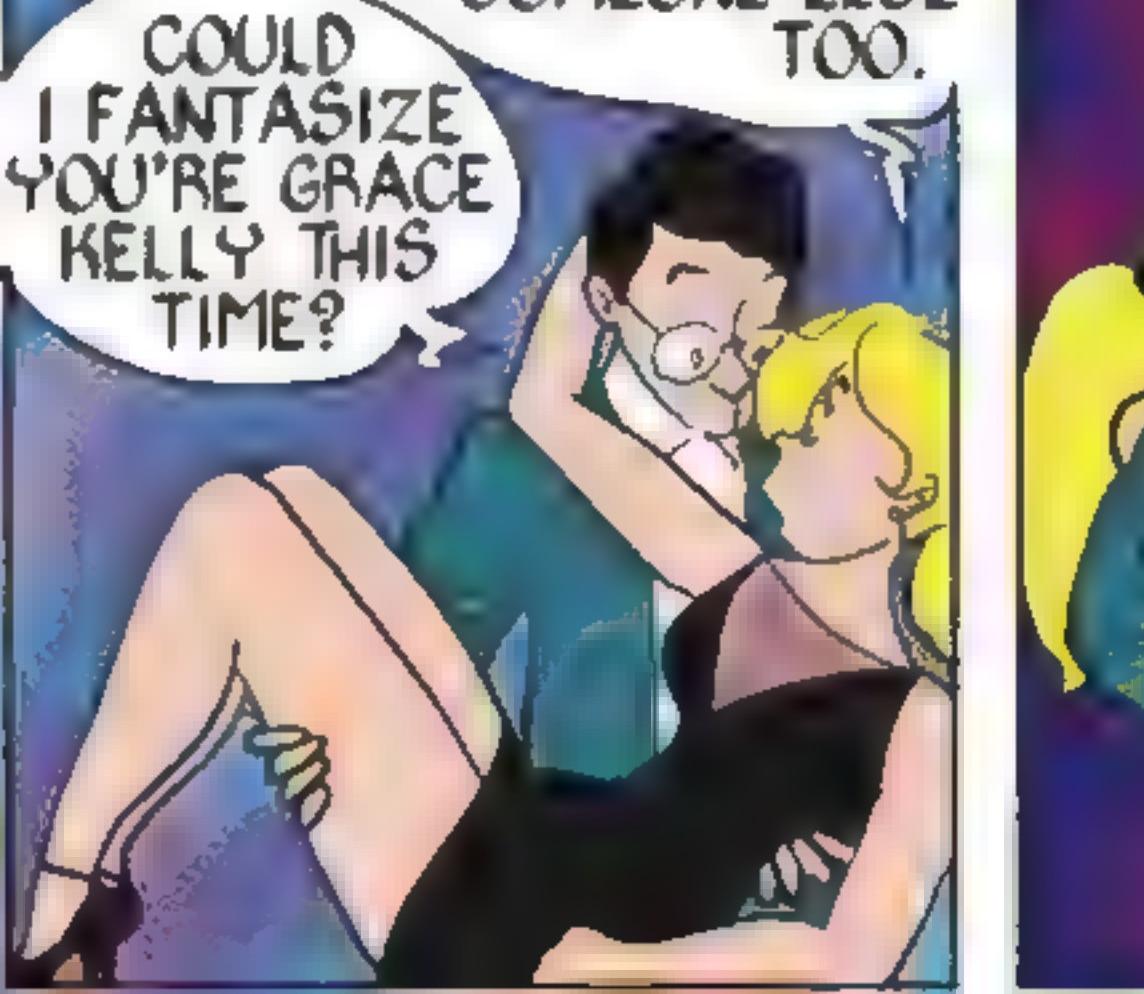
WHAT WOULD YOU
SAY TO A LITTLE
VICARIOUS
FANTASY
OF A BRIEF,
DEBAUCHED
ENCOUNTER?

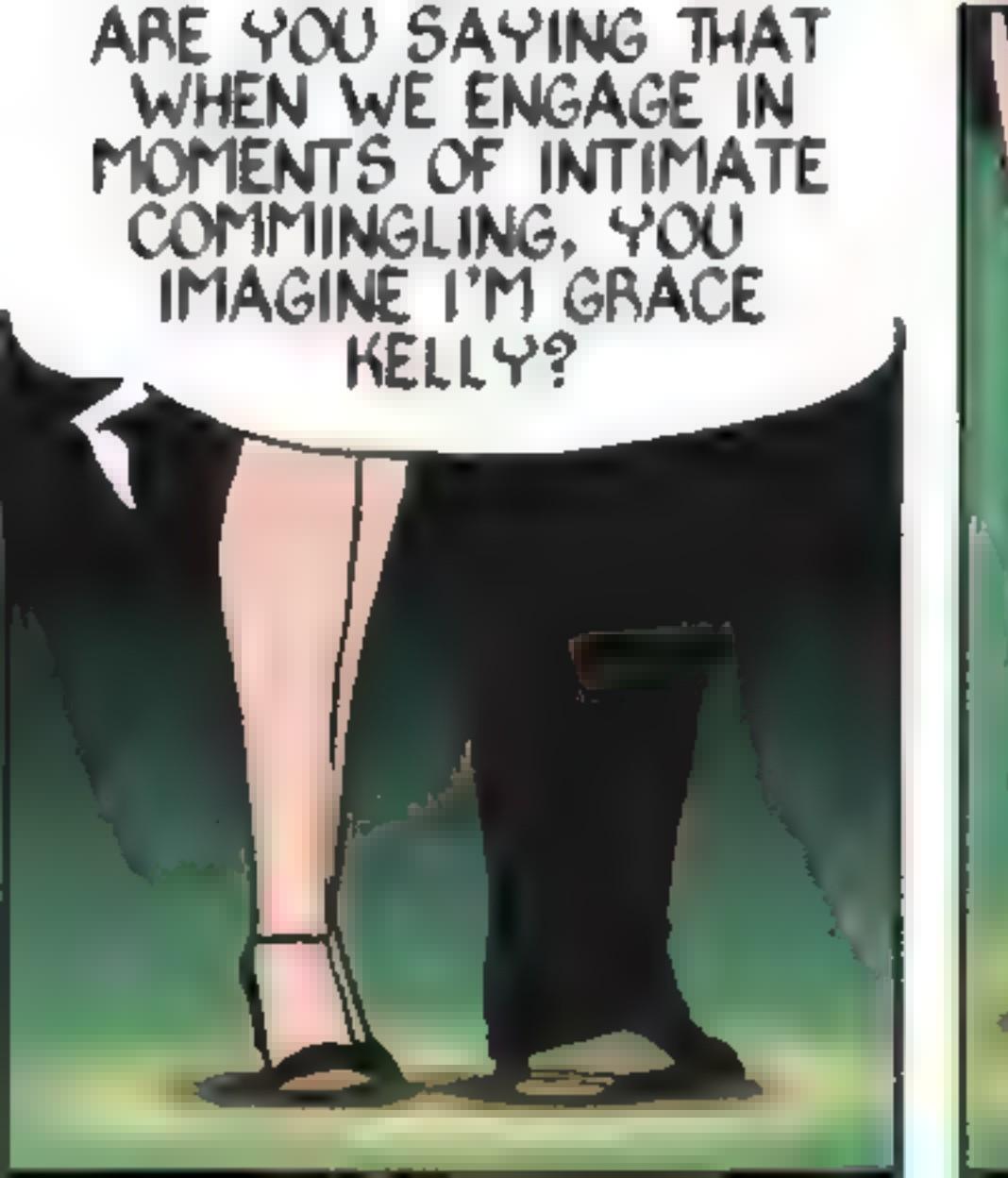
YOU MEAN, IN WHICH
YOU IMAGINE
THAT I'M SVEN.
...STUNNING,
TÄLL, BLOND,
BULL-NECKED,
NARROW HIPS,
RIPPLING
MUSCULATURE?
WHILE I HOLD YOU
IN MY ARMS,
YOU'LL BE
FANTASIZING
THAT?



cool.

DURING OUR BRIEF, FANTASY
ENCOUNTER, YOU MAY FEEL
FREE TO IMAGINE I'M
SOMEONE ELSE
TOO.





WHO ELSE DO YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT
WHEN WE'RE HAVING OUR INTIMATE
PRIVATE MOMENTS?



OTHER THAN GRACE KELLY?...WELL, ALL
MY FAVORITES. CLAUDETTE COLBERT, GINGER
ROGERS, IDA LUPINO, MYRNA LOY, HEDY LAMARR,
LORETTA YOUNG...WHO AM I LEAVING OUT?

Barker

HOW ABOUT ME?!

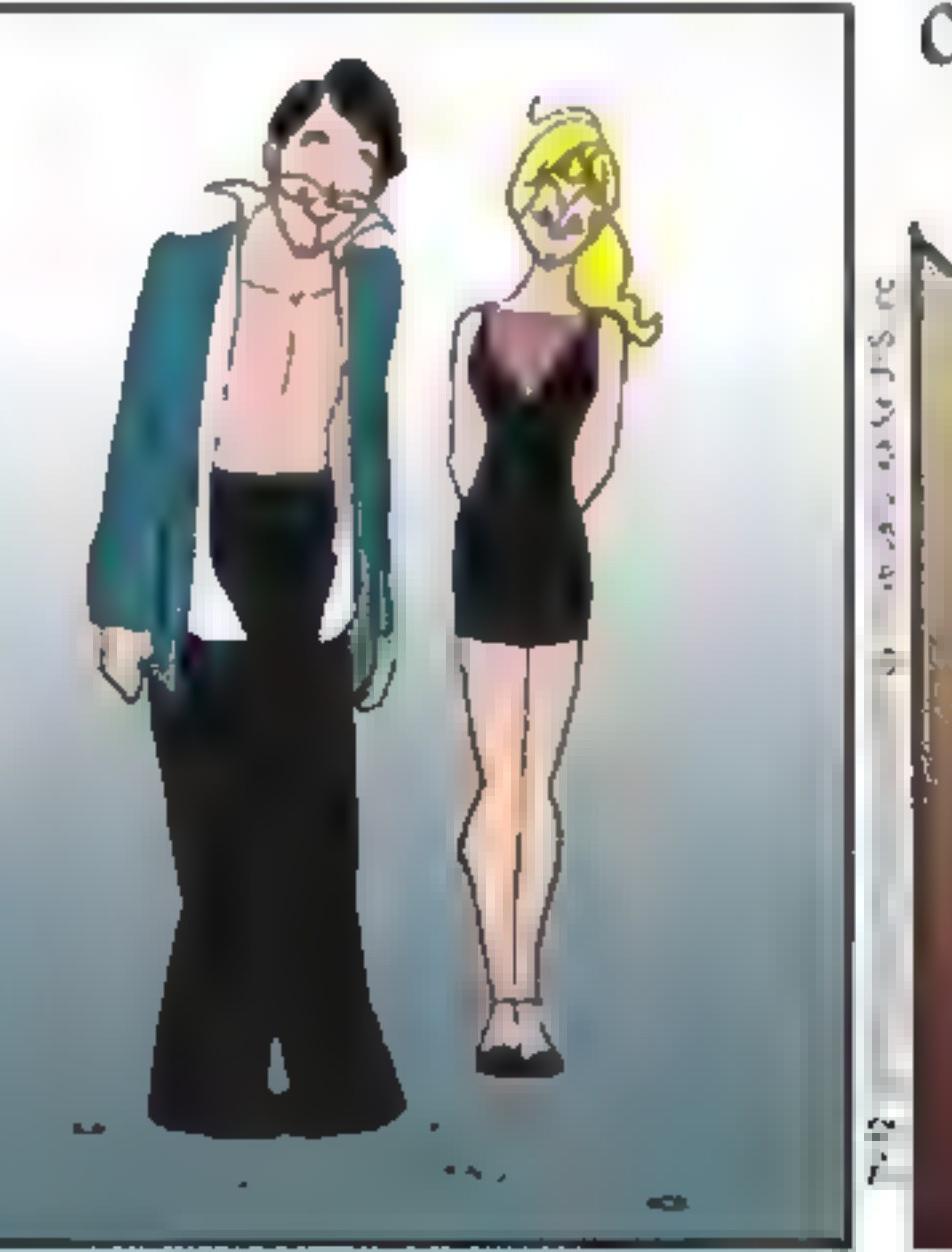
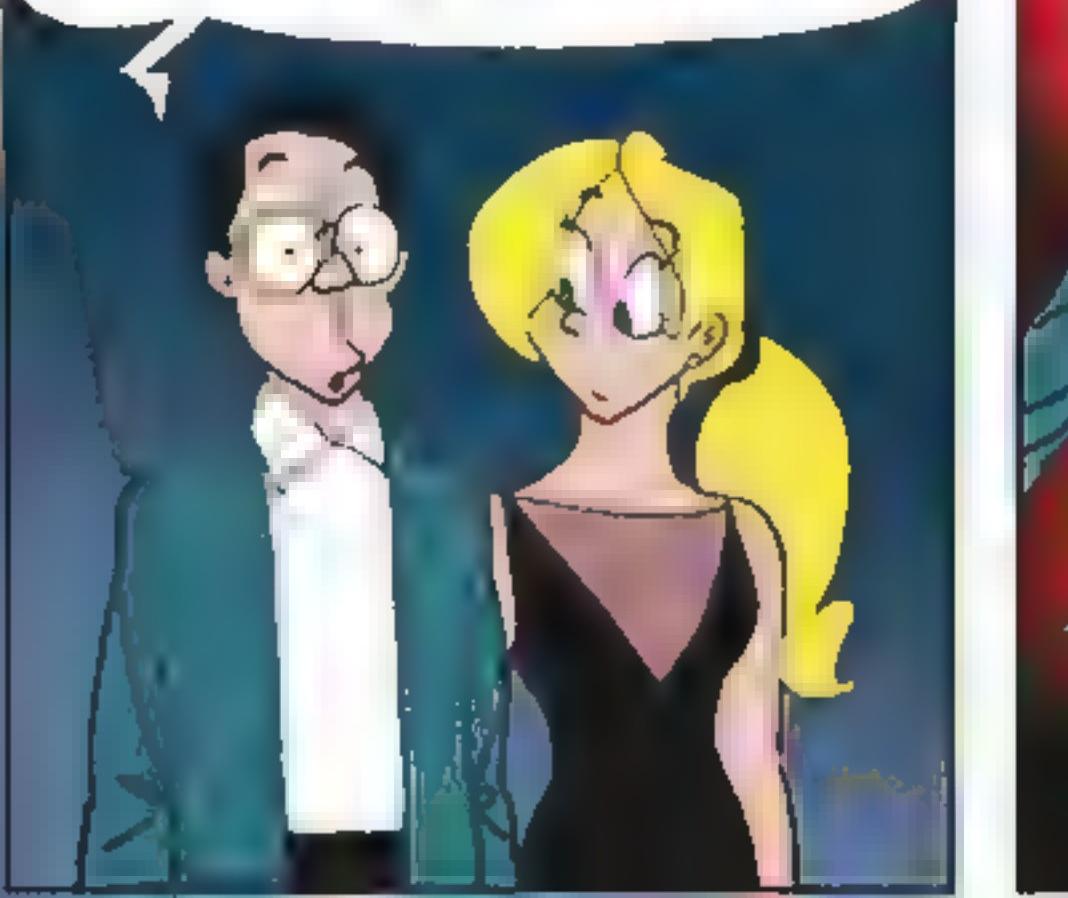


SOMETIMES
I FANTASIZE
IT'S YOU.

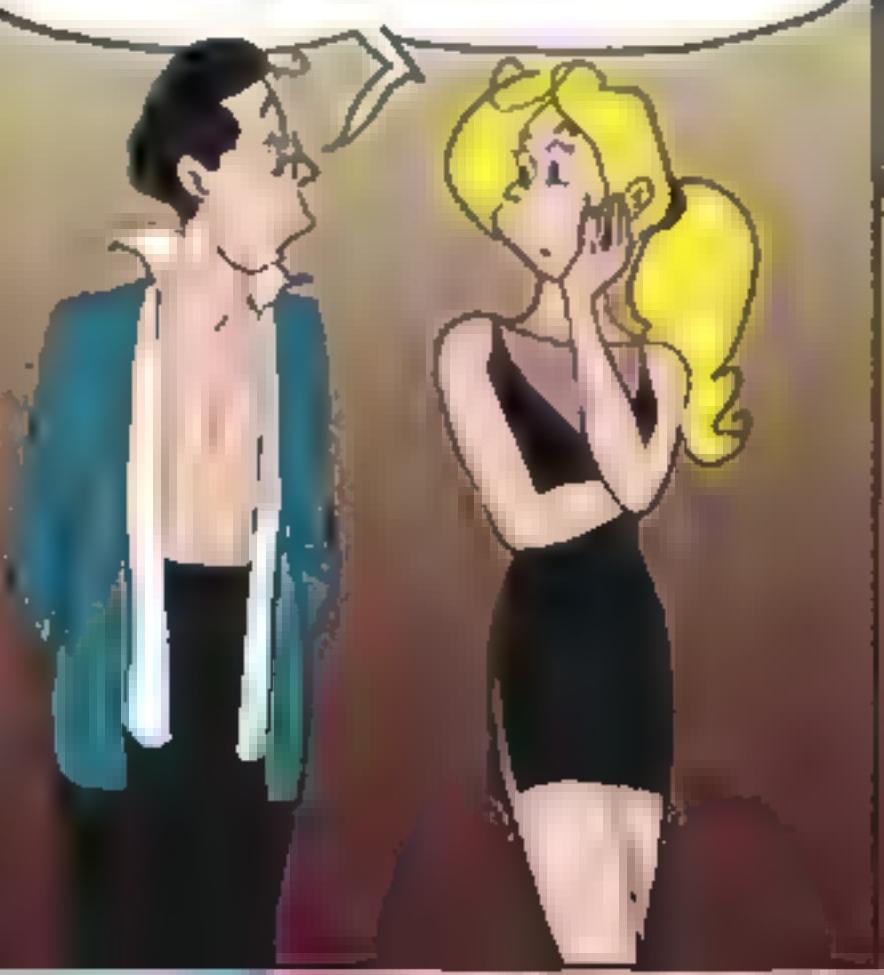
OR...TO PUT IT ANOTHER,
SOMewhat LESS
INFLAMMATORY WAY...



THE ONLY THING ABOUT
FANTASY PASSION IS THAT
IT RUNS THE RISK OF
SHATTERING OUR PREMARITAL
VOWS OF CHASTITY.



OF COURSE, HINDERED THUS,
PASSION SUCH AS OURS
COULD PUT SOMEONE'S
EYE OUT.



I THINK IT'S
ESSENTIAL TO
MAINTAIN OUR
ABSTINENCE -
OUR CHASTITY -
IN BODY AND
MIND, UNTIL
OUR WEDDING
DAY. IT MAY
BE DIFFICULT,
BUT THE PLAN,
NEVERTHELESS,
IS SOUND.



AGREED. AND
NO FANTASY
PARAMOURS.
NO SVEN FOR ME,
AND NO GRACE KELLY,
CLAUDETTE COLBERT,
GINGER ROGERS,
IDA LUPINO, MYRNA
LOY, HEDY LAMARR
OR LORETTA YOUNG
FOR YOU.



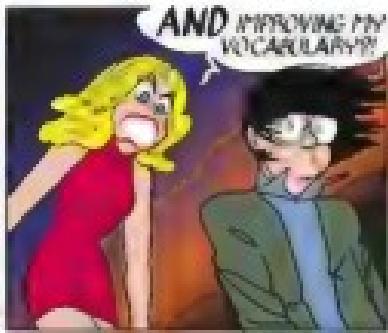
...WHAT ABOUT
INGRID BERGMAN AND
RITA HAYWORTH?



Barker

9 CHICKWEED LANE

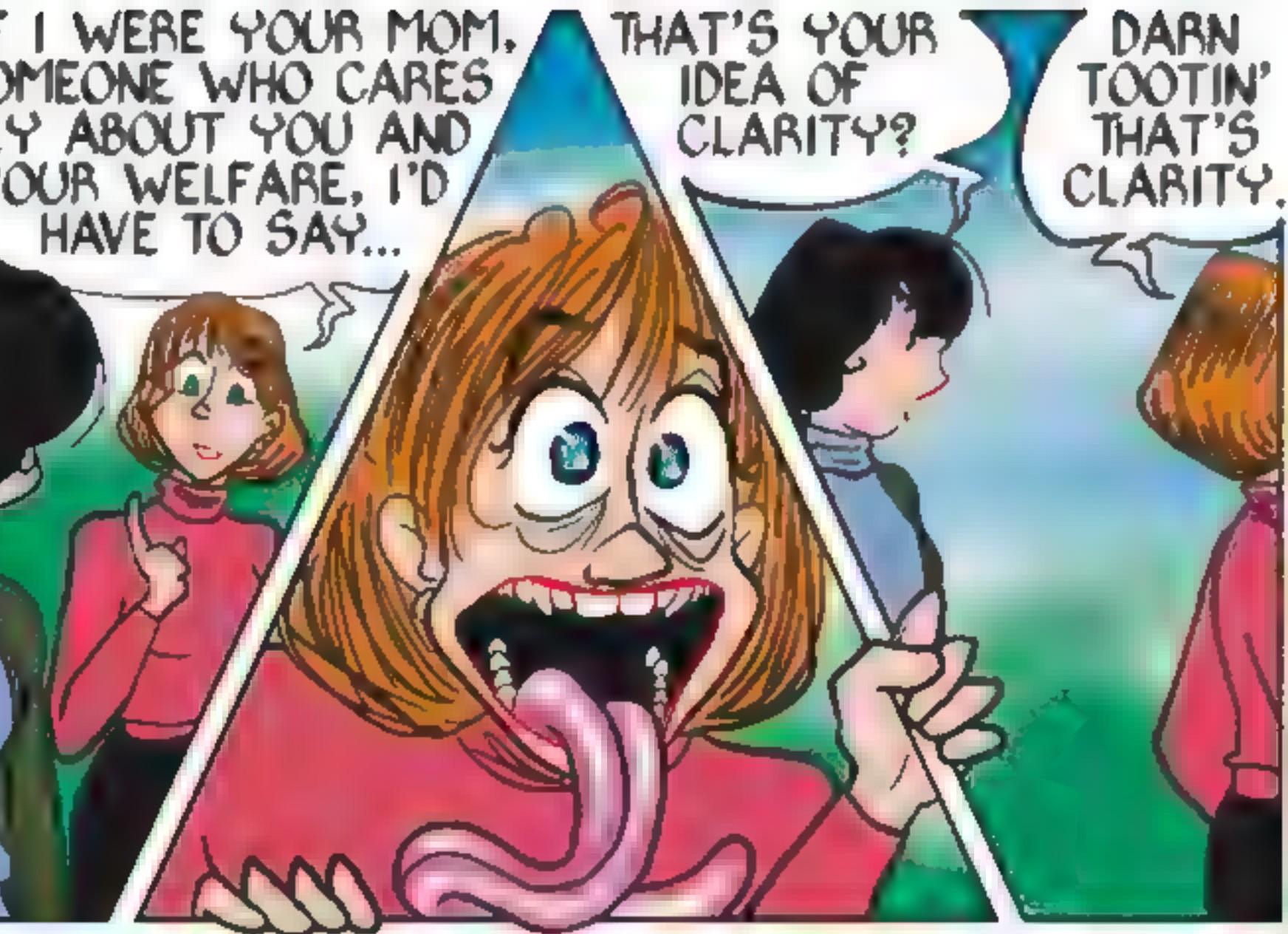
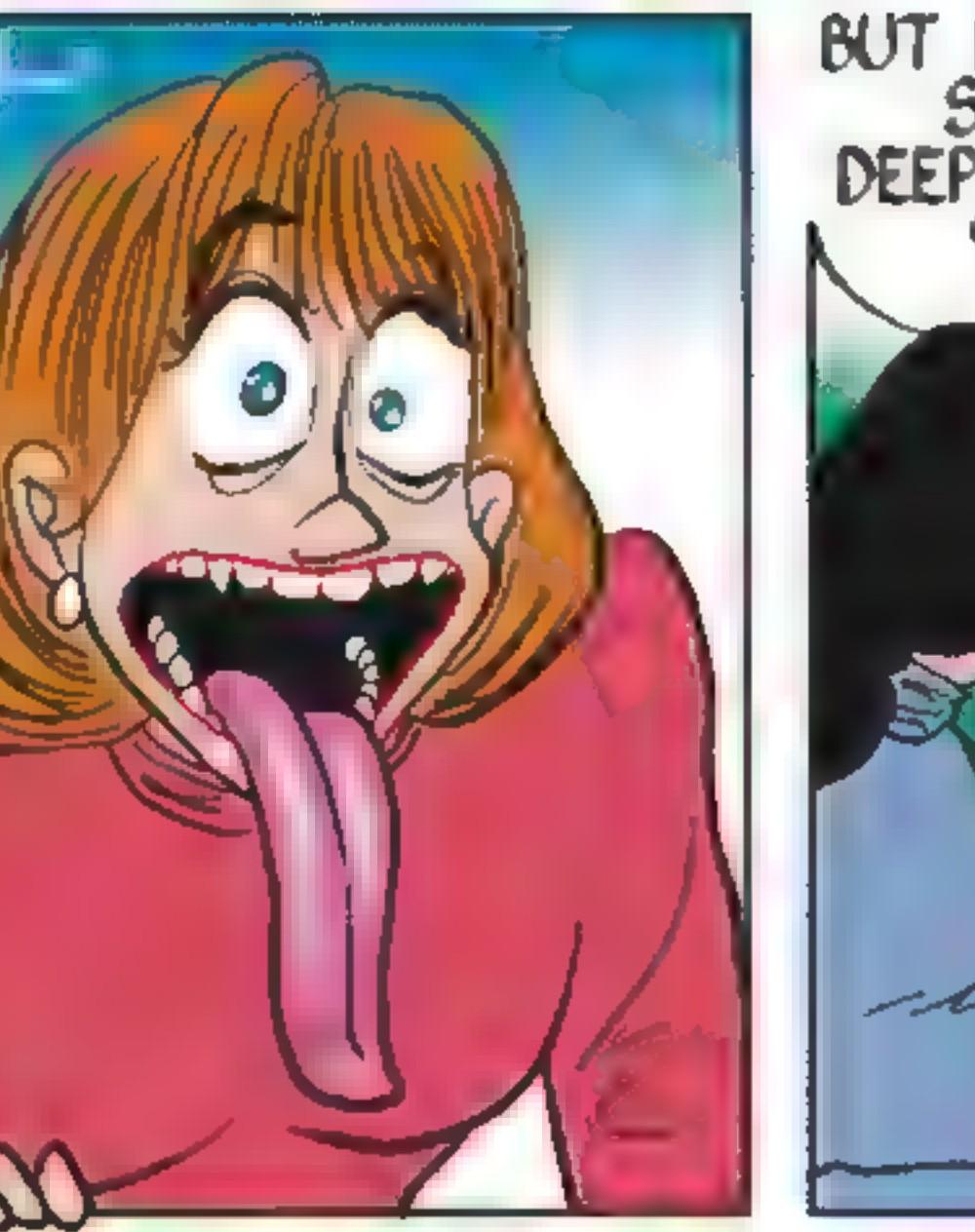
peet peet staaaat peet tat



peet
peet
staaaat
peet tat?

I FIND MYSELF IN A PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DILEMMA WITH SVEN. DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS TO LEND CLARITY?

JUST
BETWEEN
US,
WOMAN TO
WOMAN,
I TEND
TO LOOK
AT SVEN
THIS
WAY.



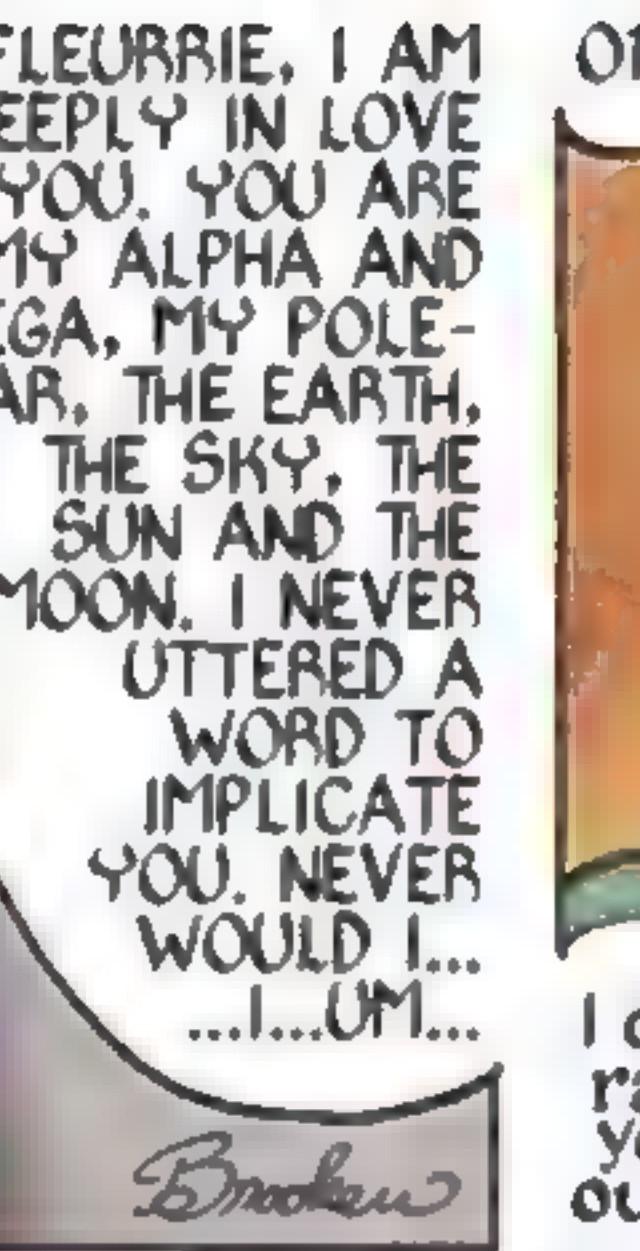
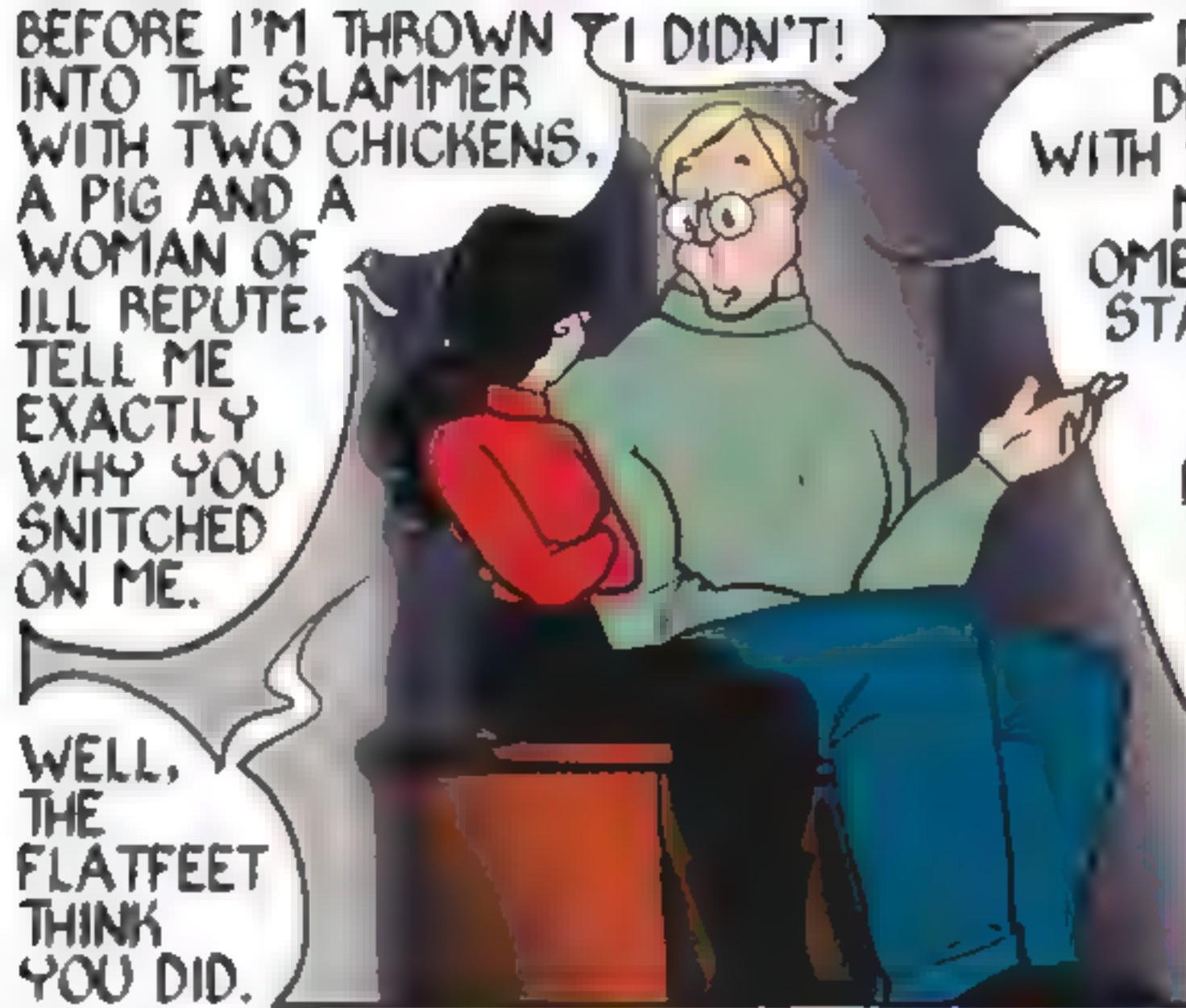




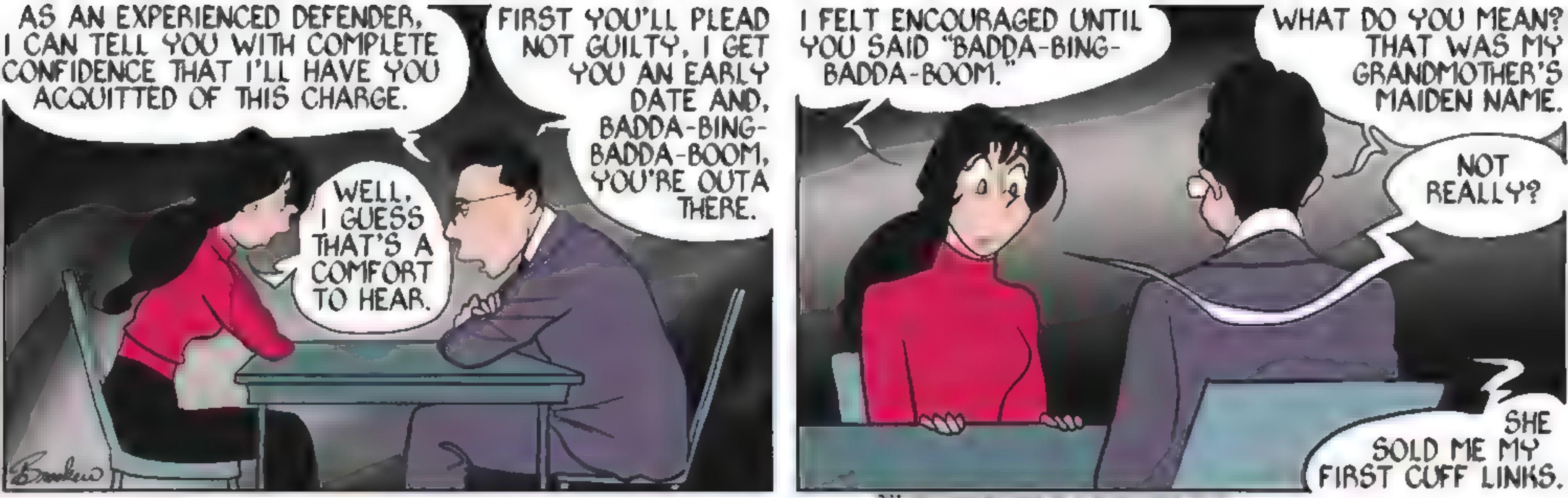
I THOUGHT THE MATTER
WOULD NEVER COME TO A
HEAD. THEN, SUDDENLY, HERE
I AM IN A POLICE CRUISER
BEHIND ANDY AND BARNEY...

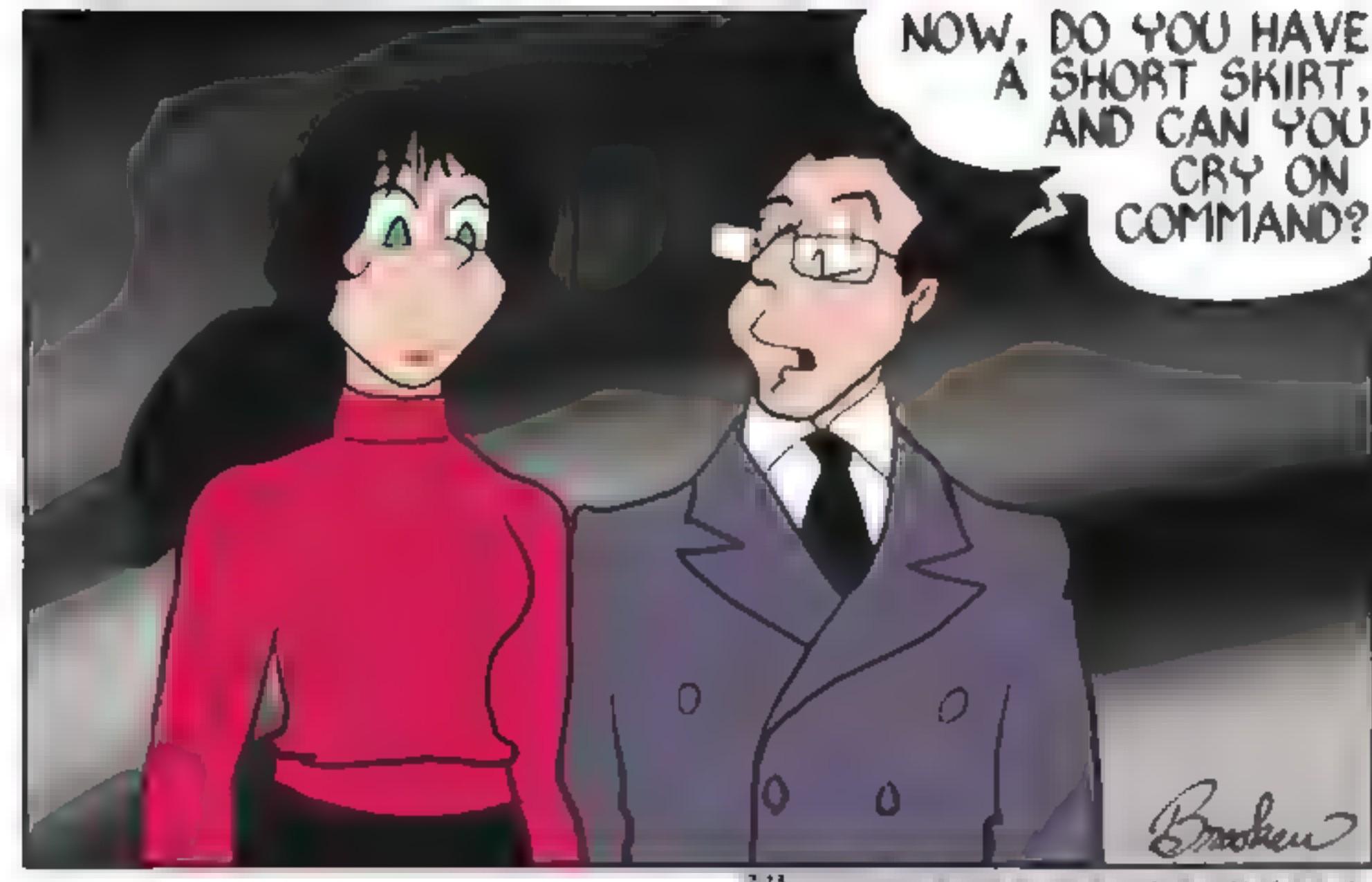








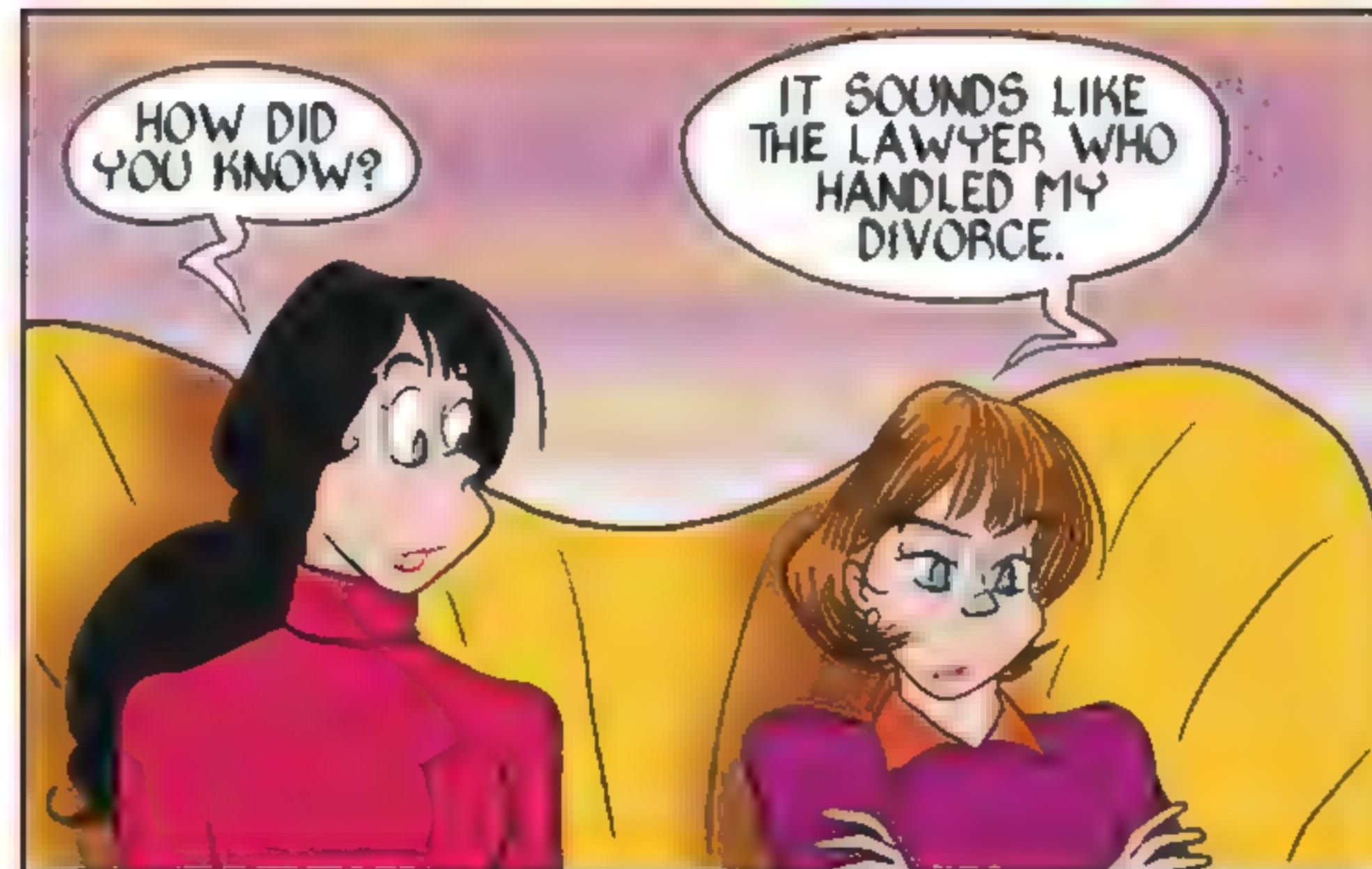


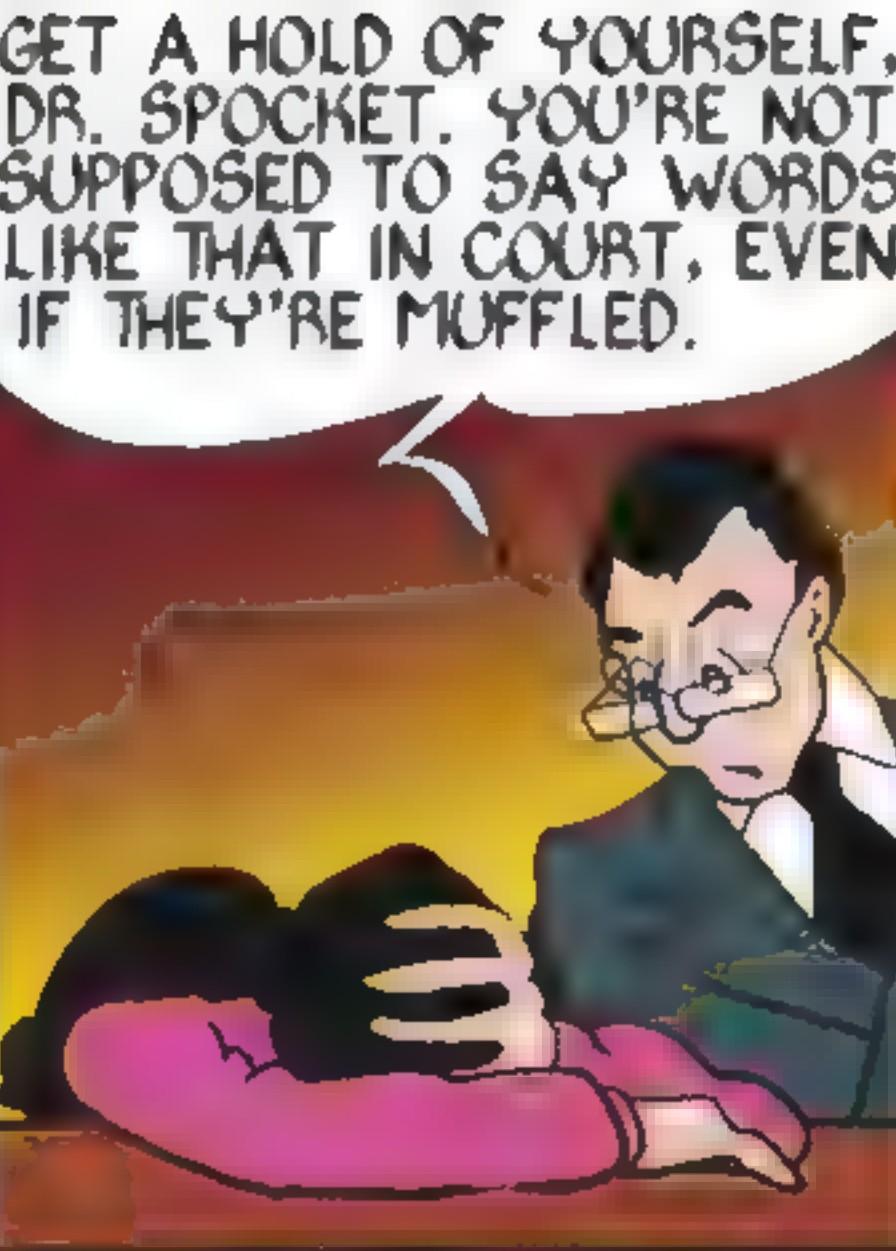
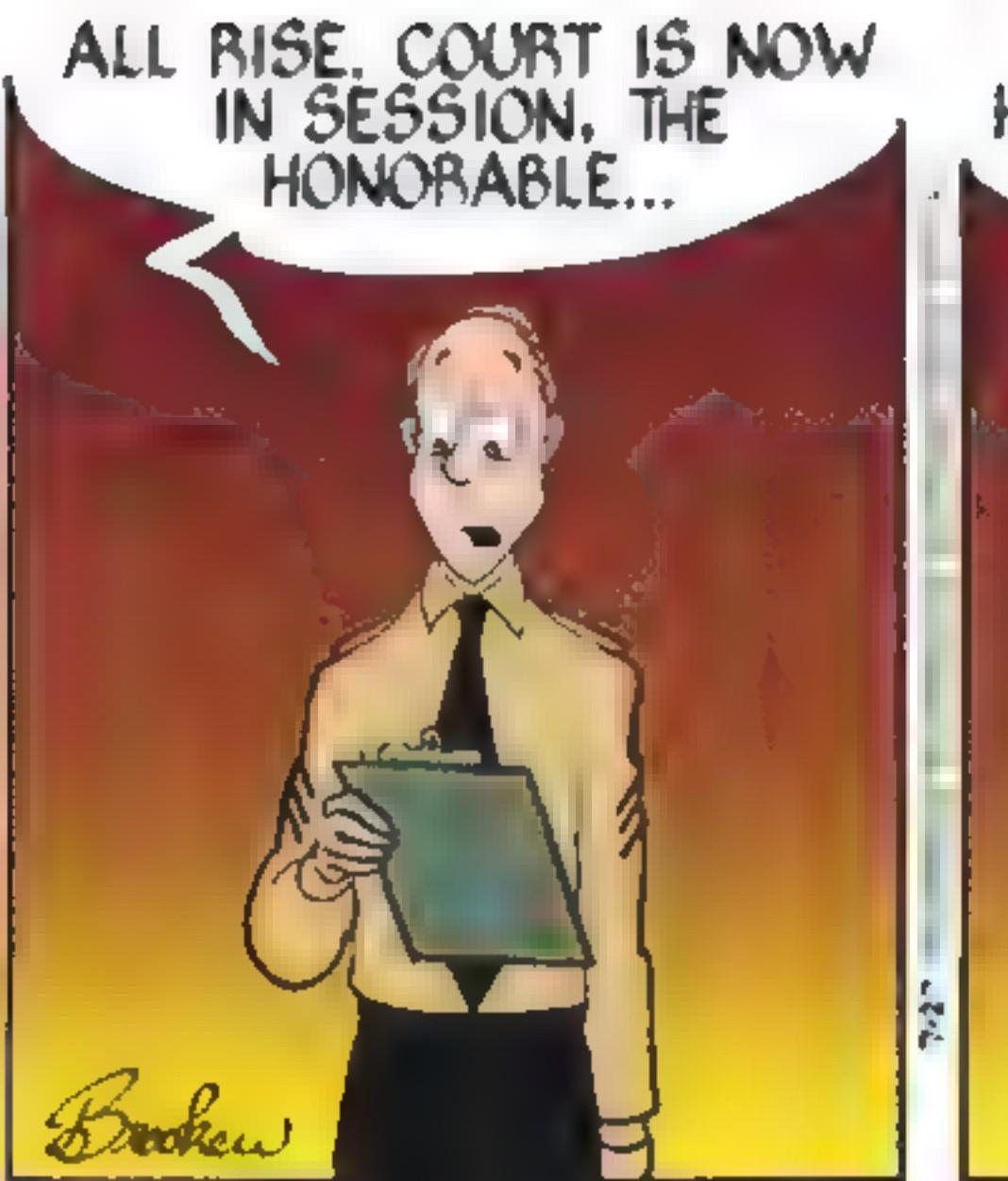


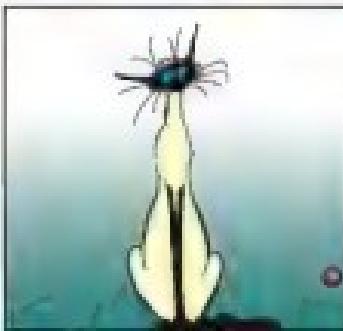
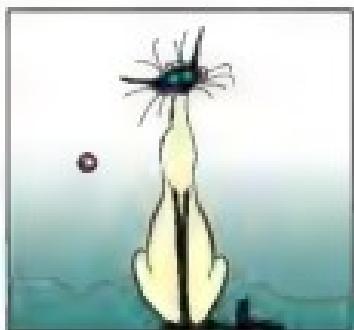
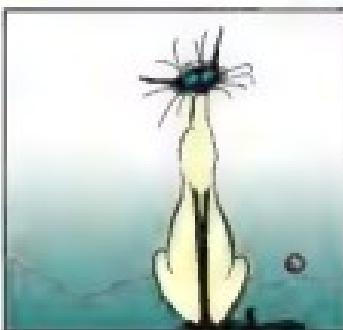
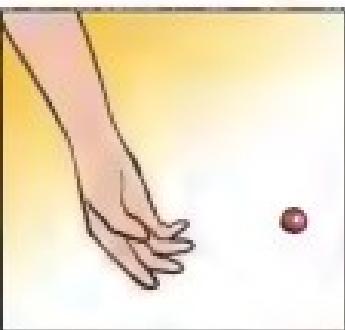


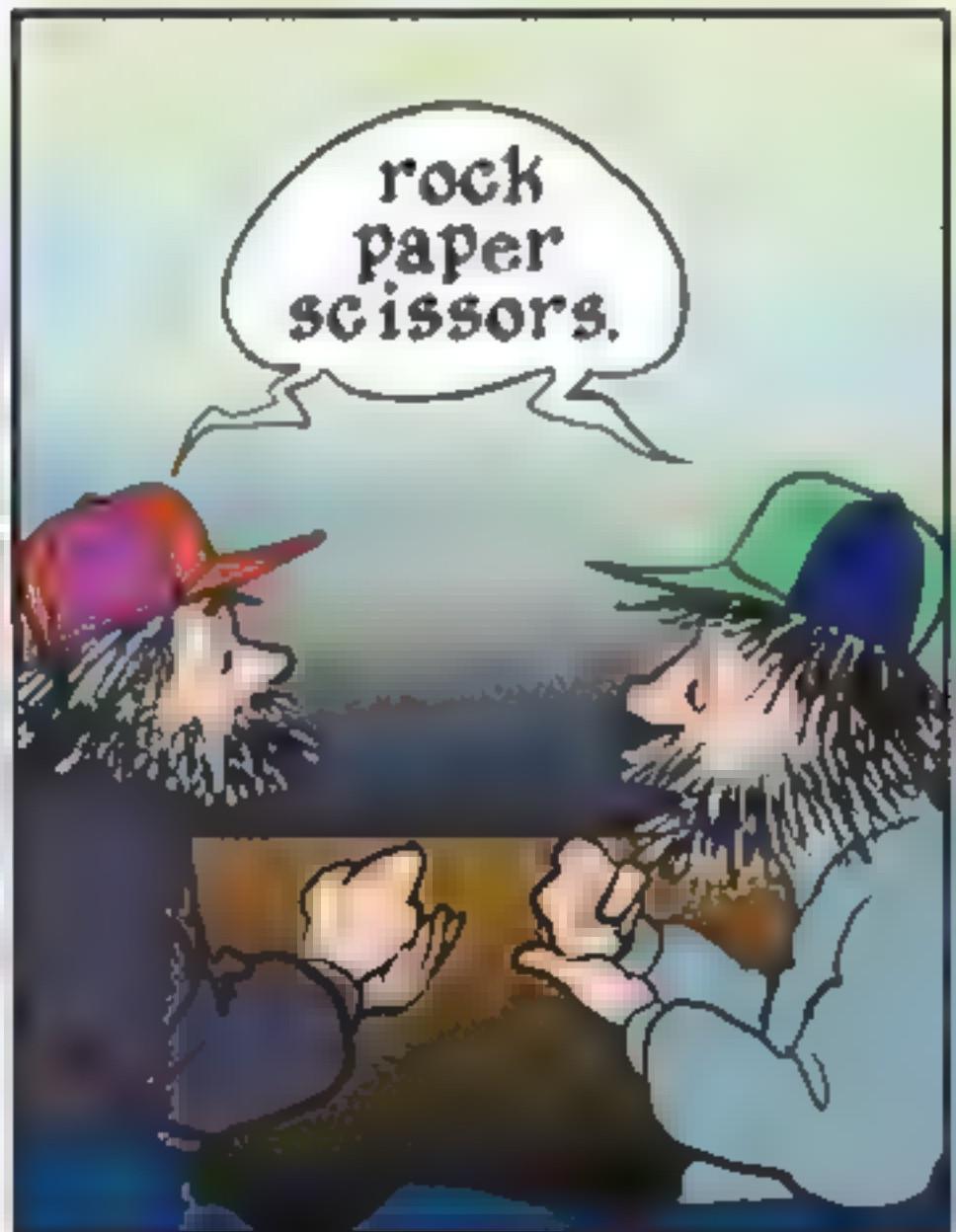


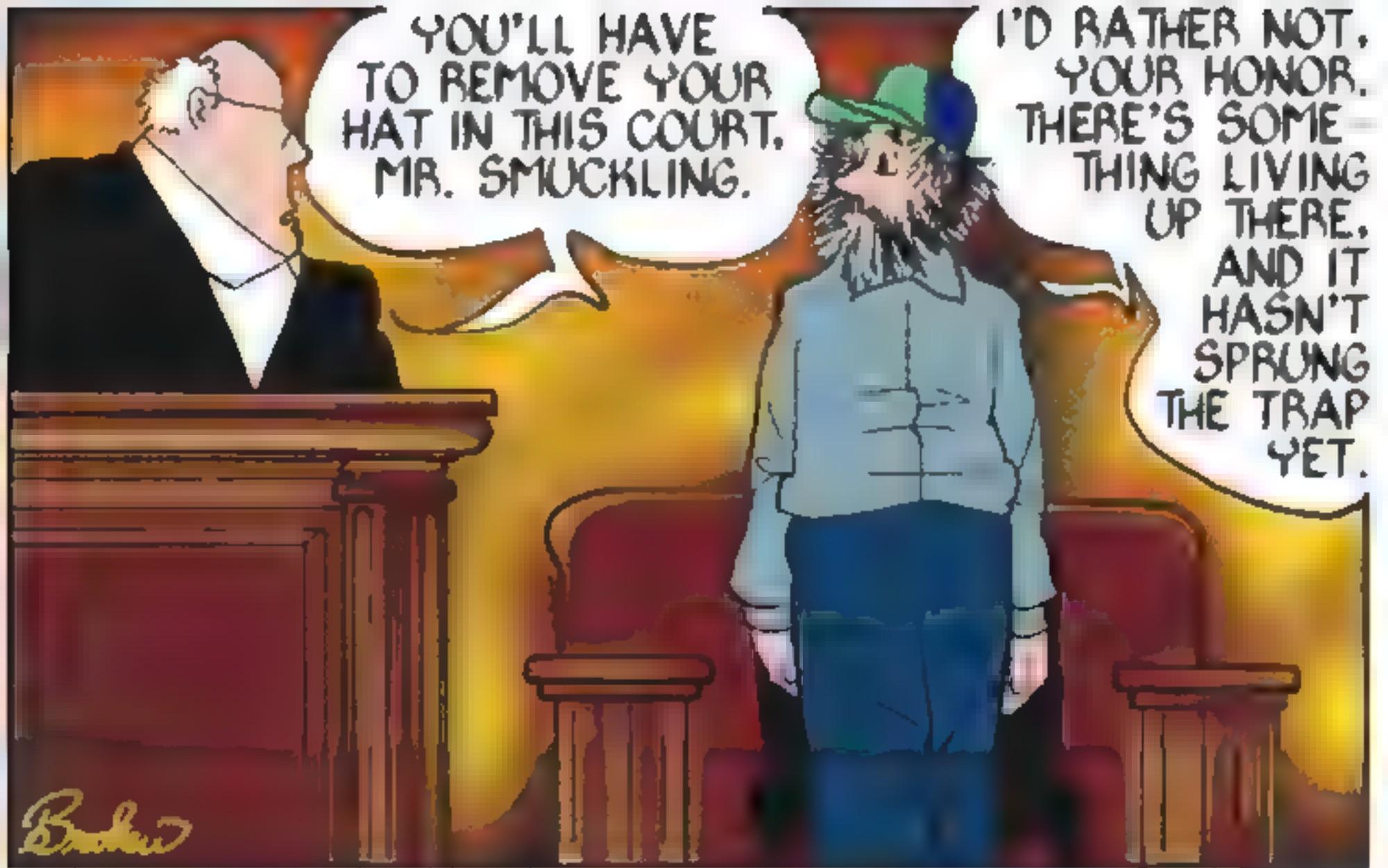
THE ATTORNEY BEGAN BY TELLING ME THAT ACQUITTAL
WILL DEPEND UPON MY WEARING A SHORT SKIRT AND
CRYING ON THE STAND. BUT WITH SVEN SPEAKING
THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH UNDER OATH, HE HAS
REVISED HIS DEFENSE STRATEGY.

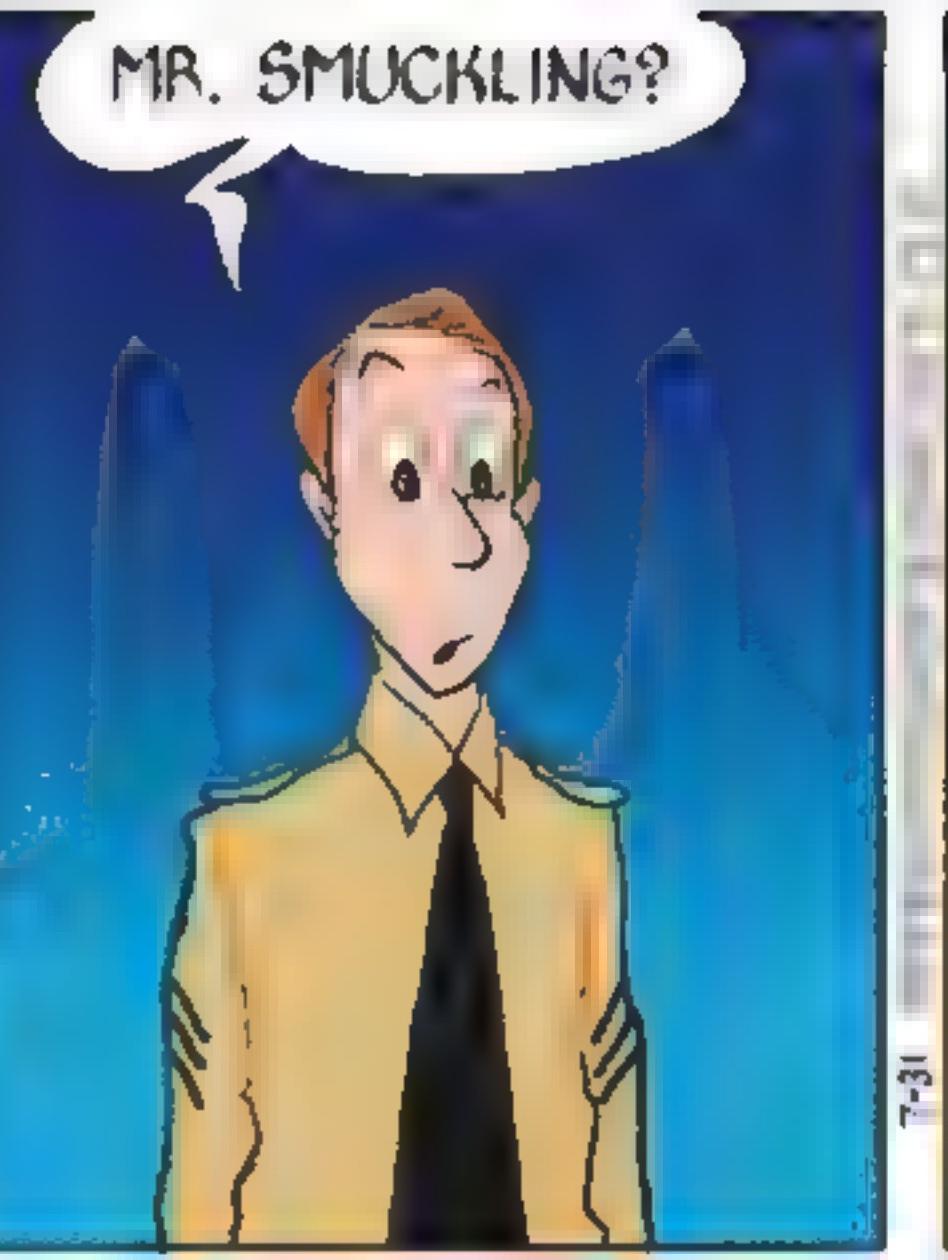
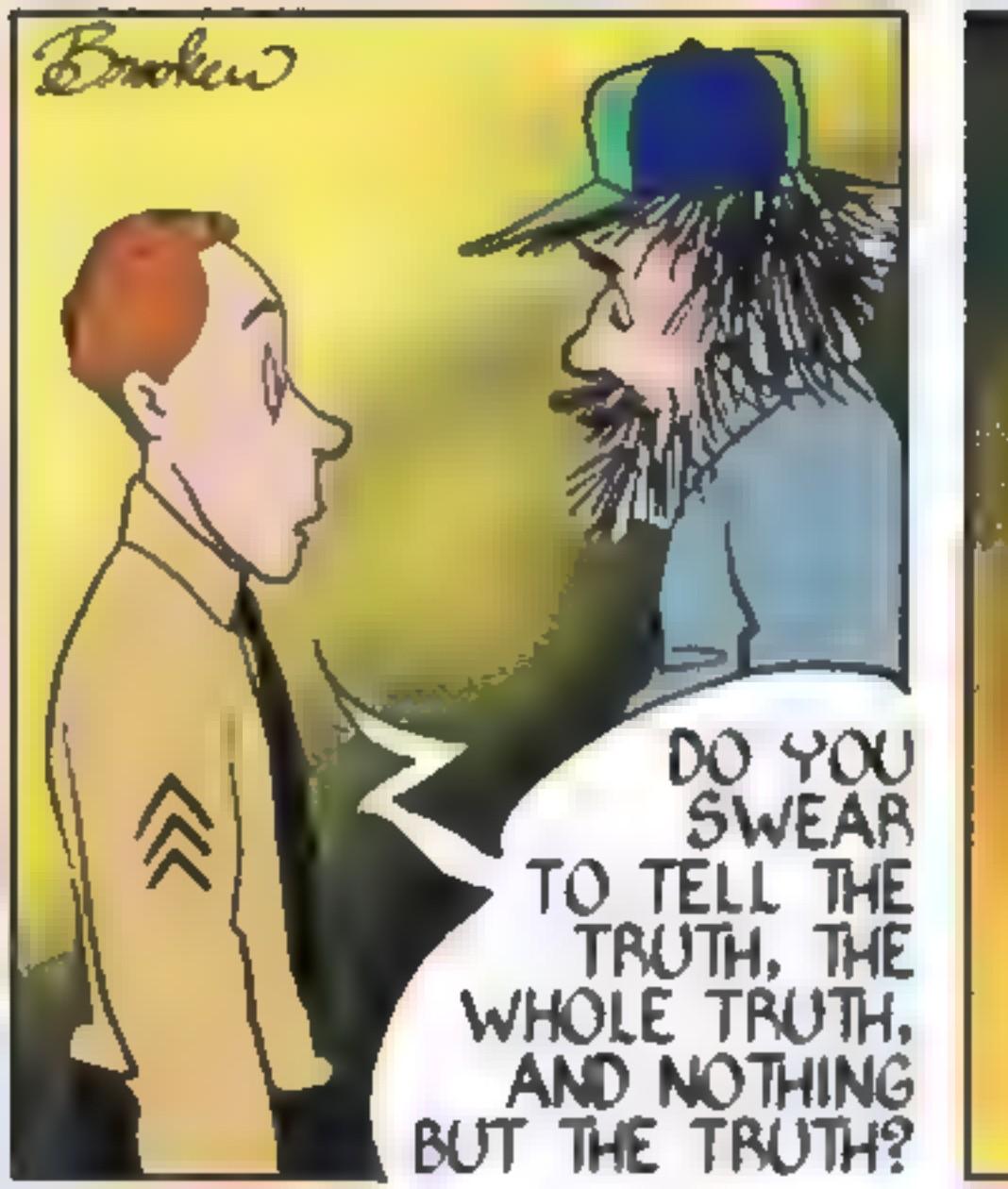


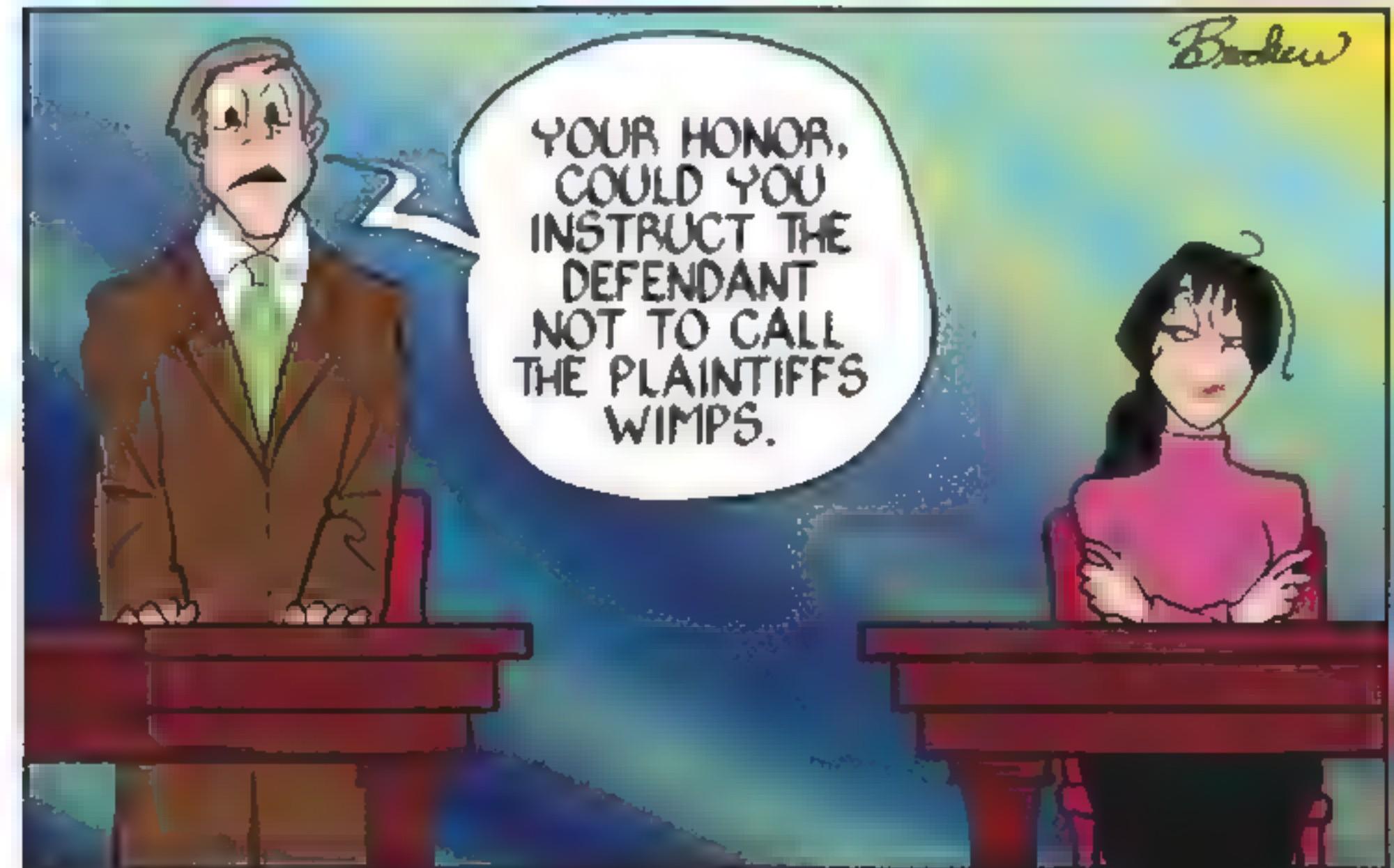
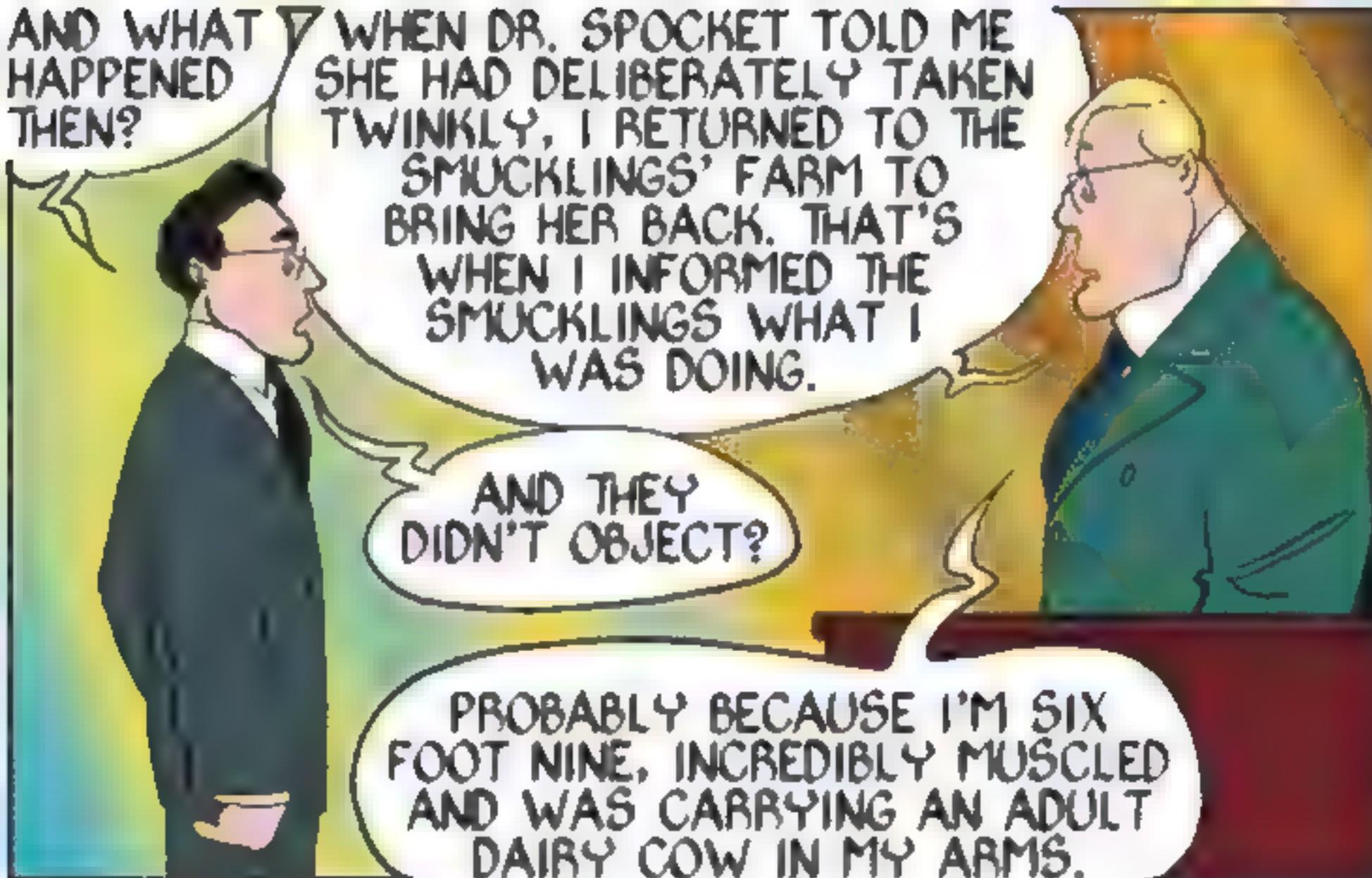


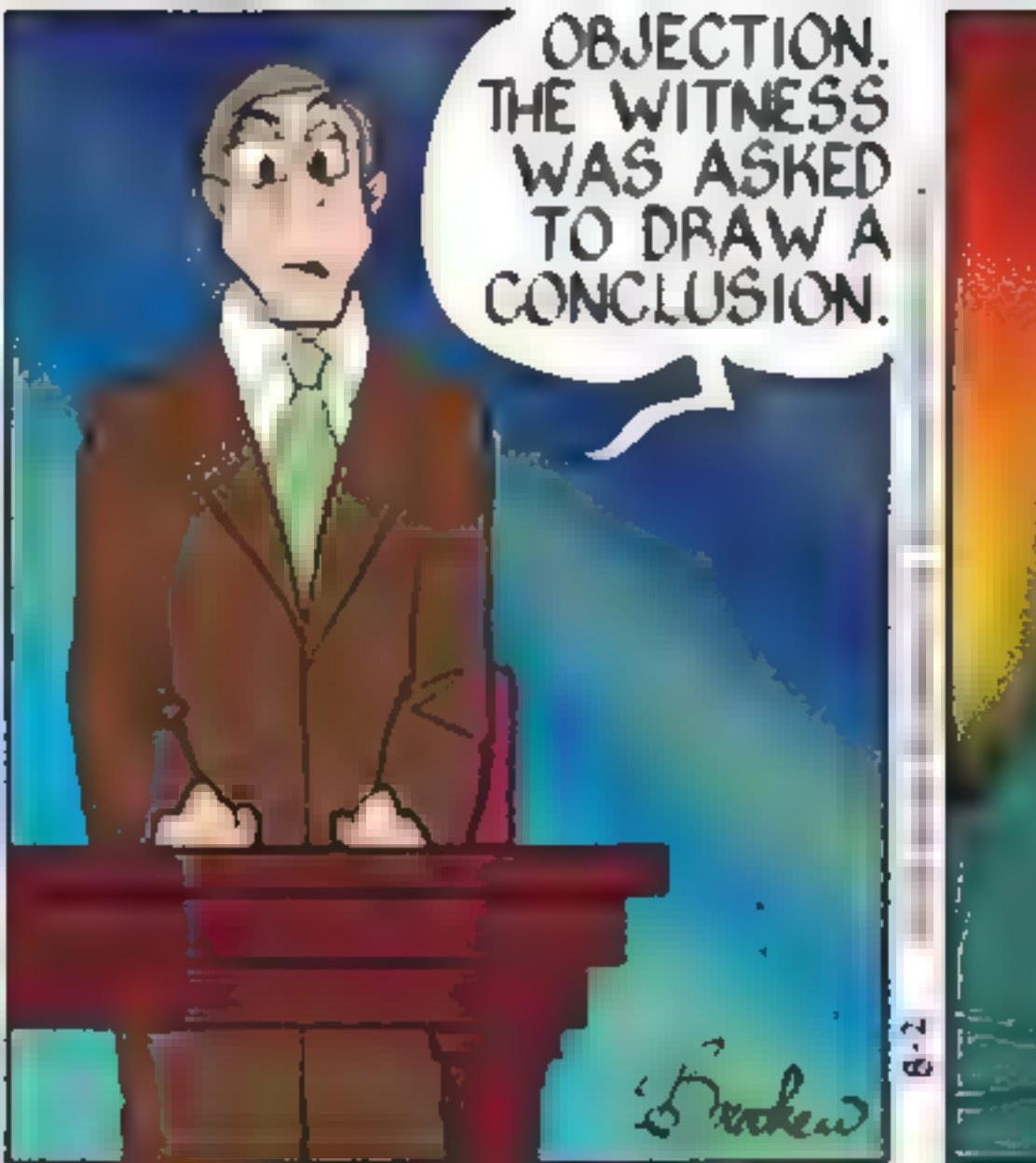


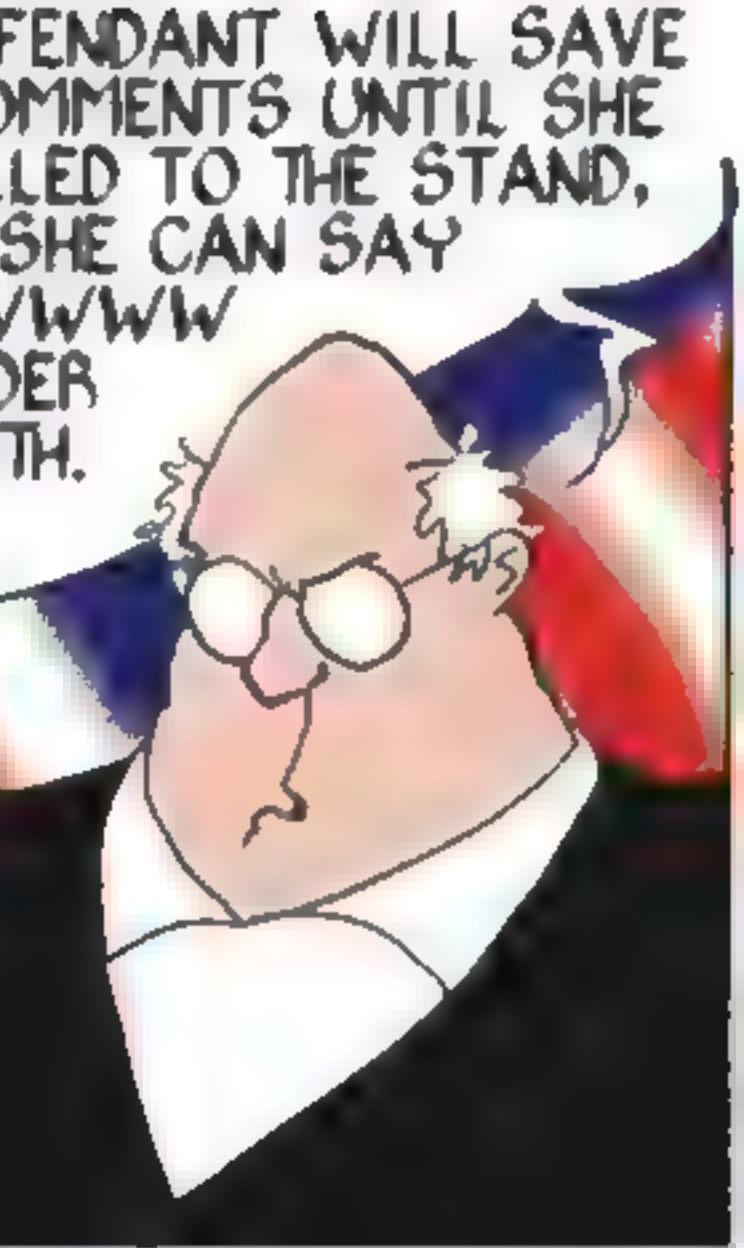
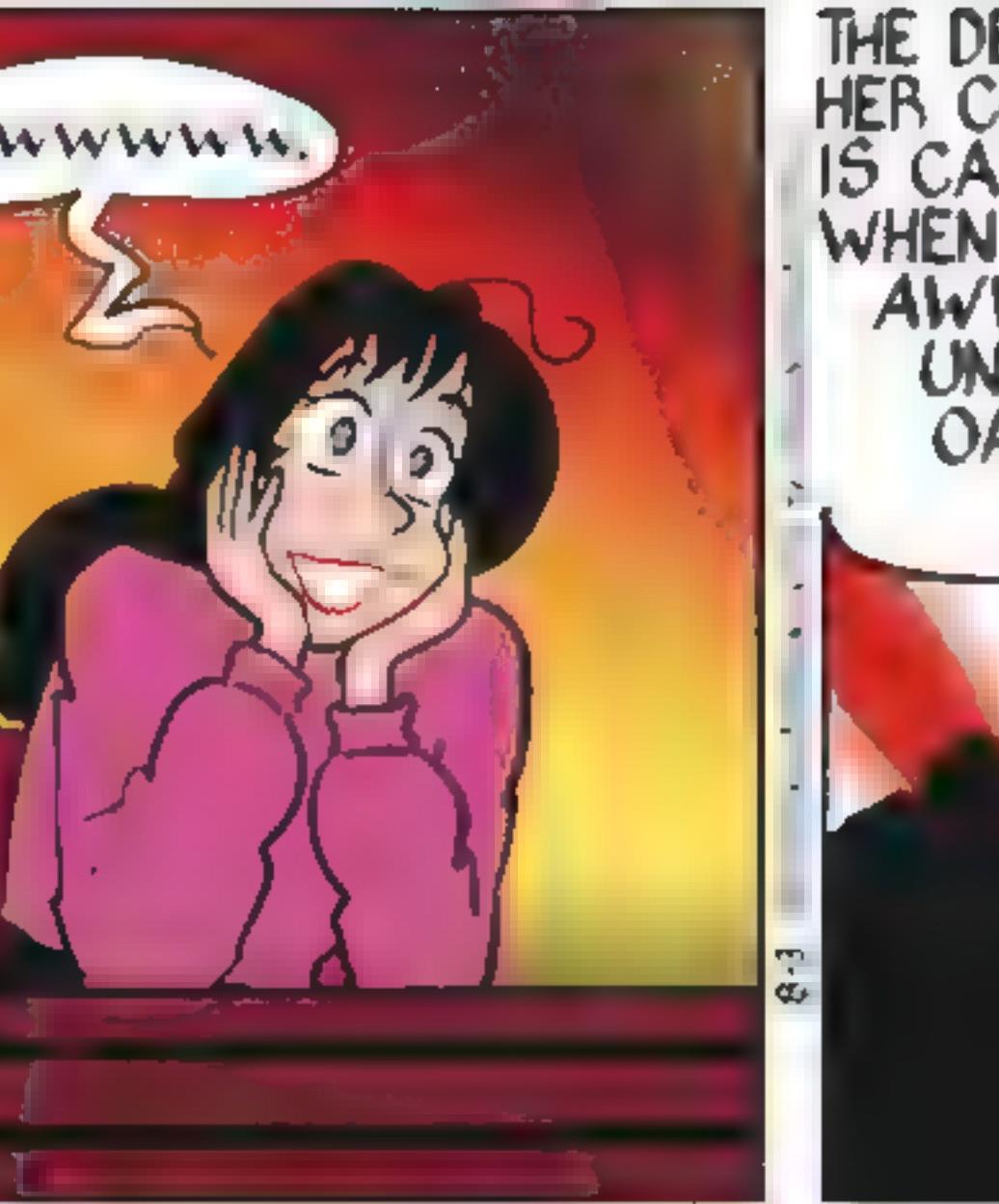
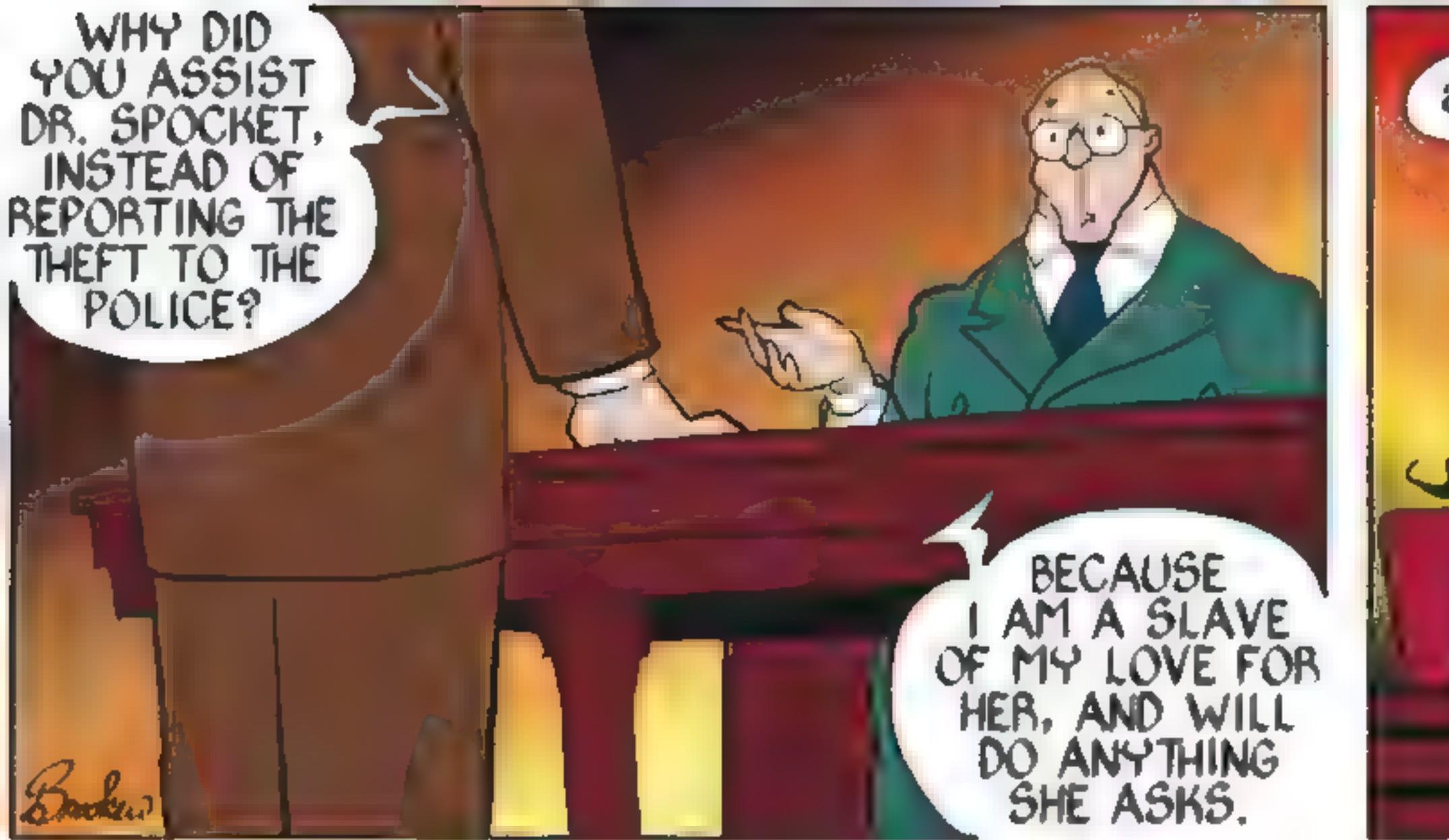






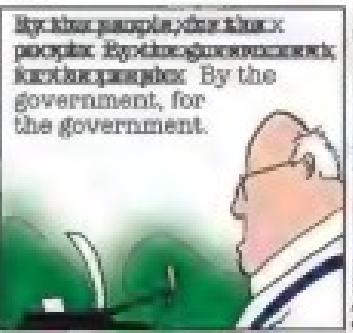
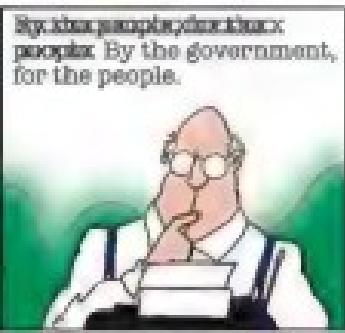
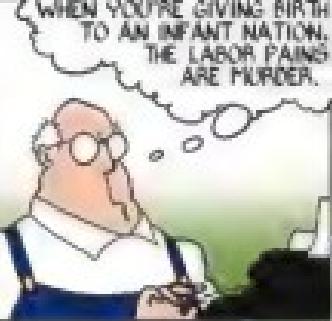
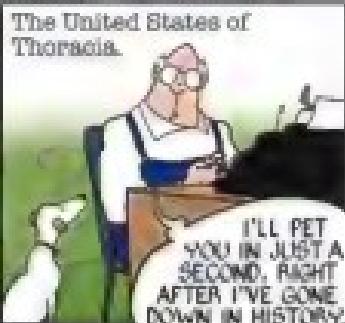


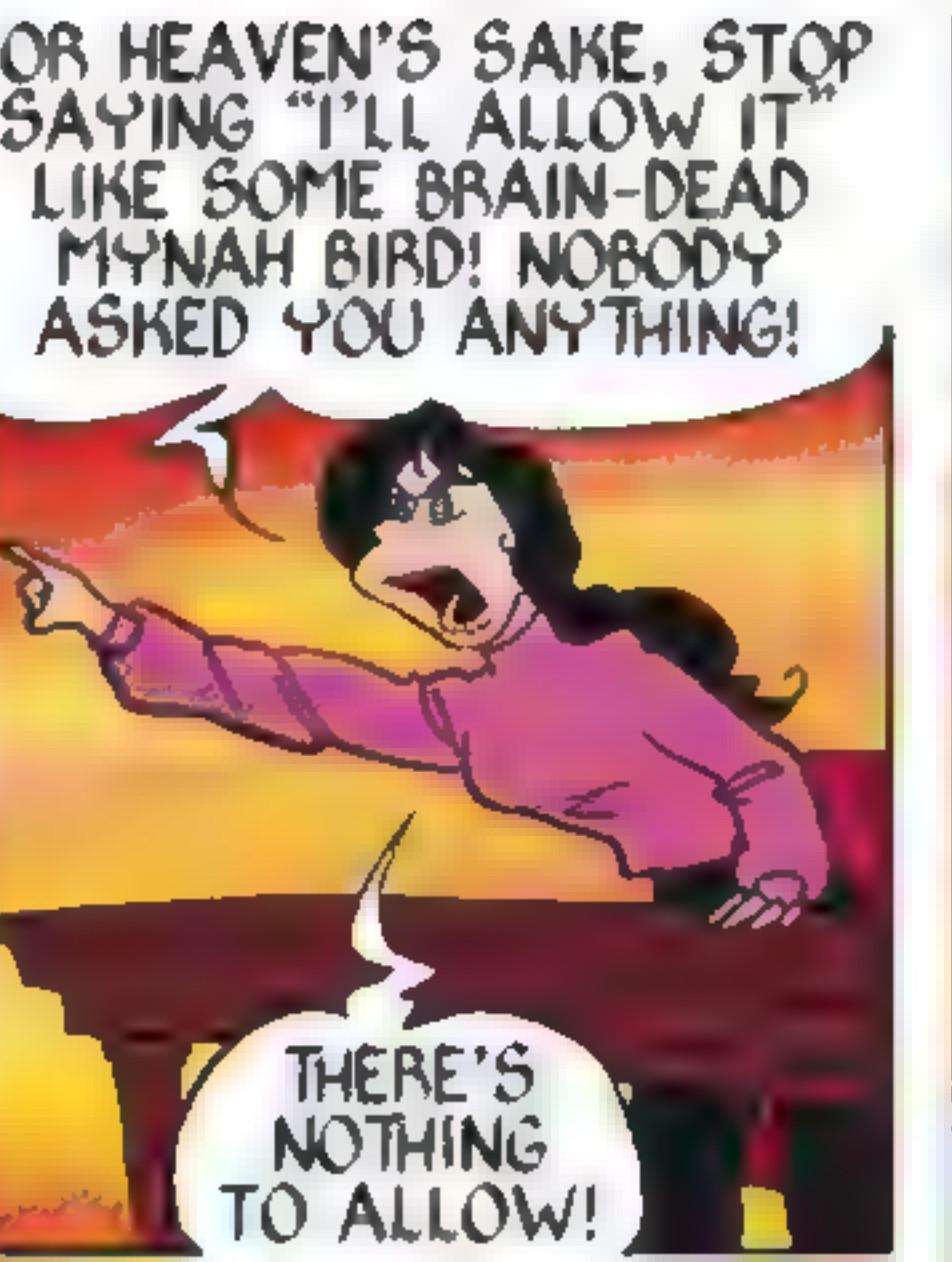


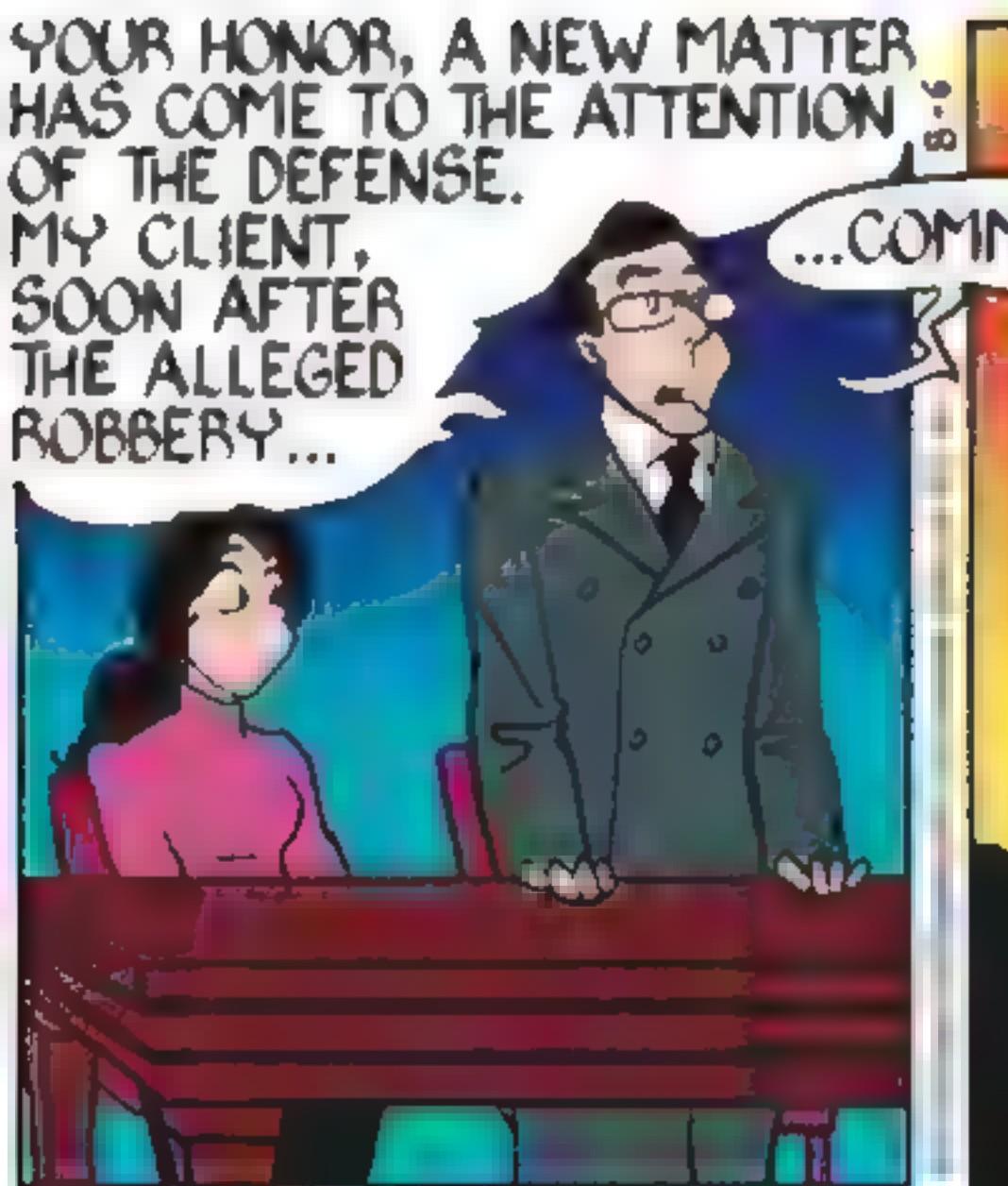


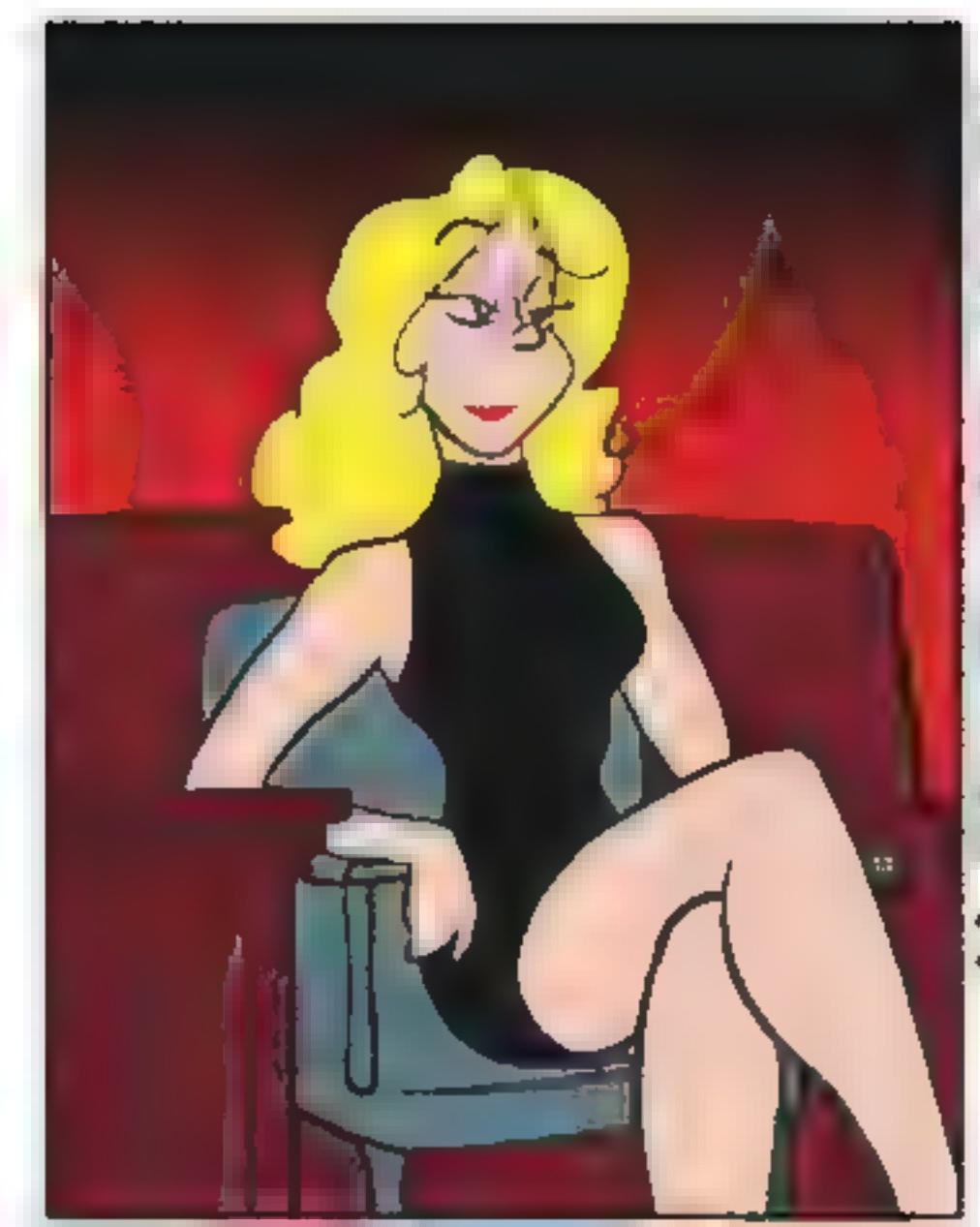
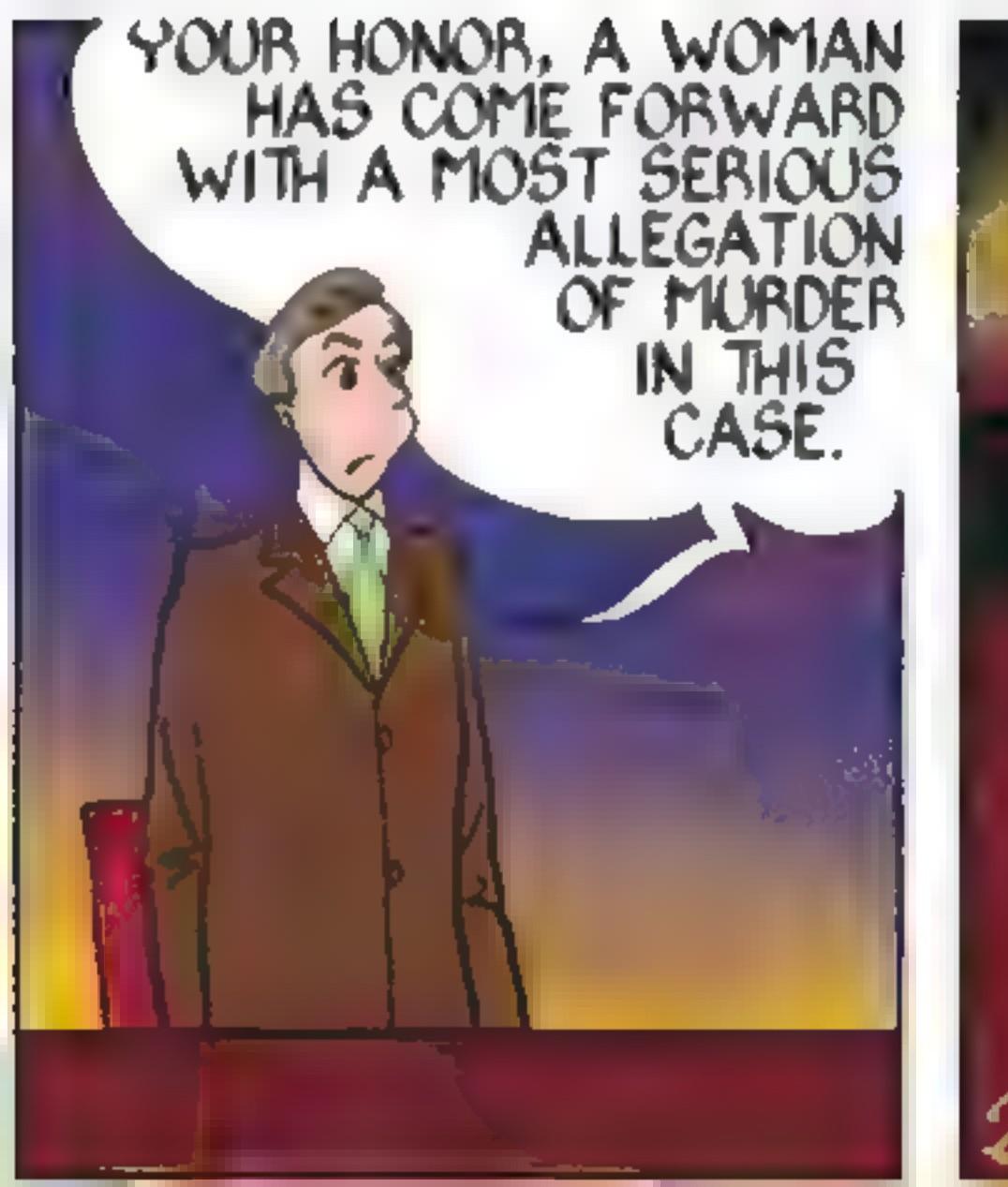


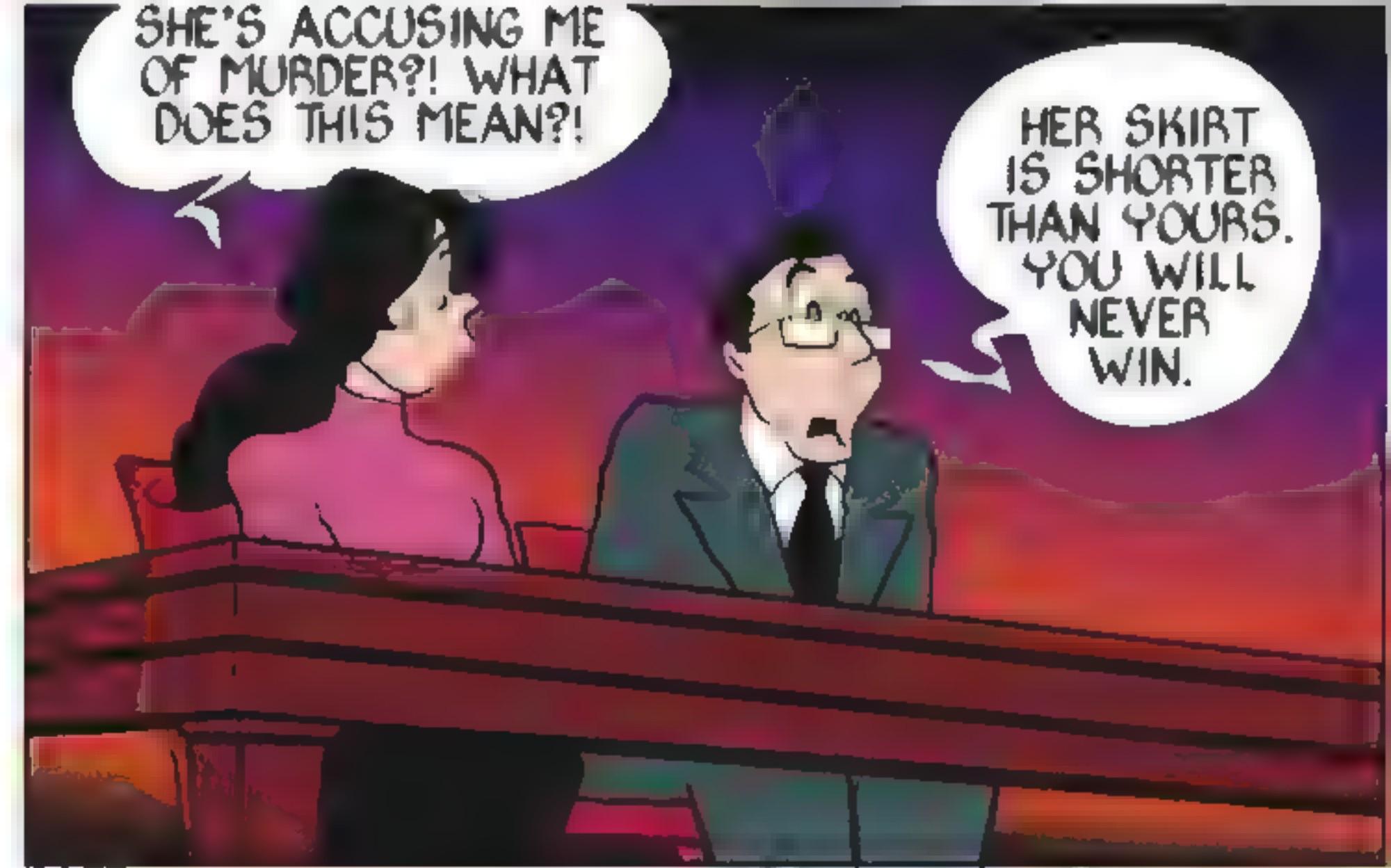
The United States of Thoracia

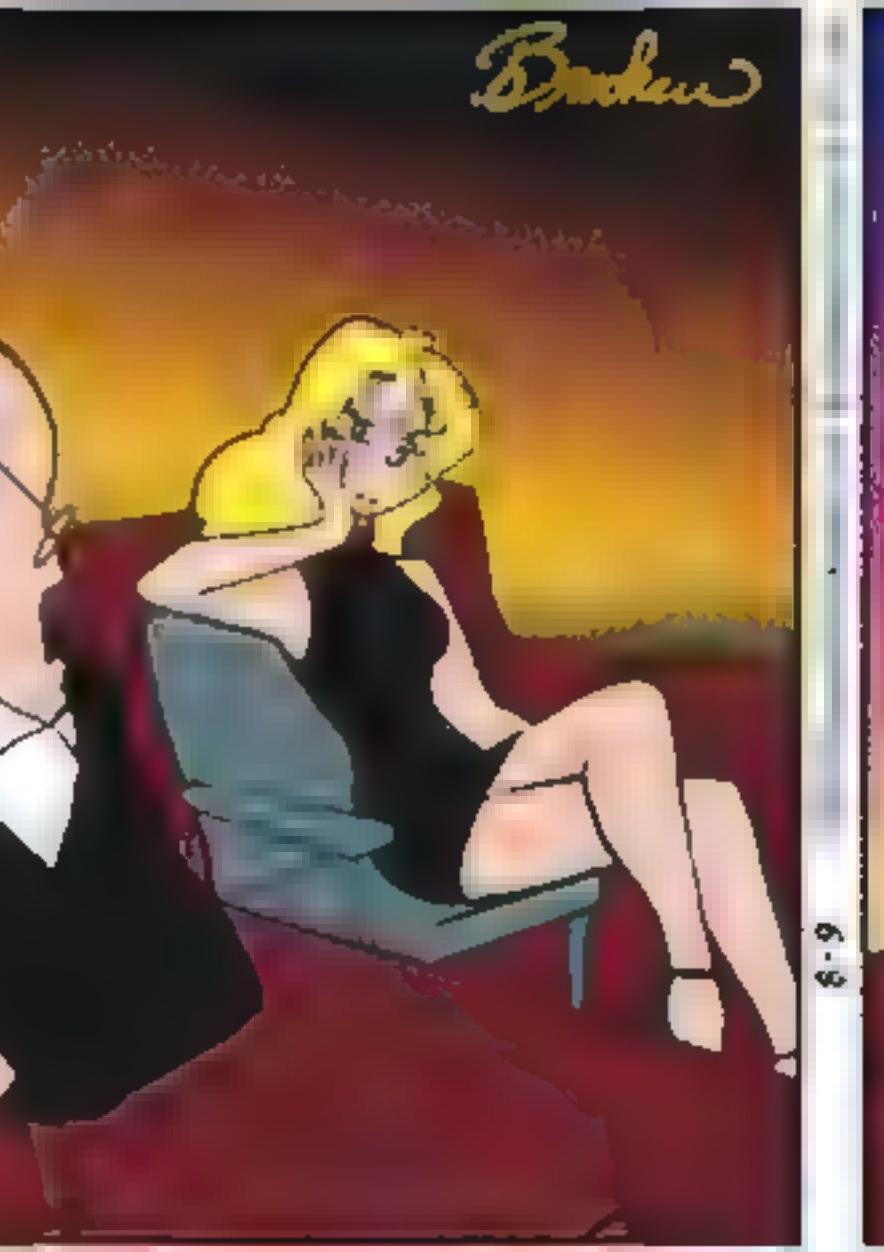
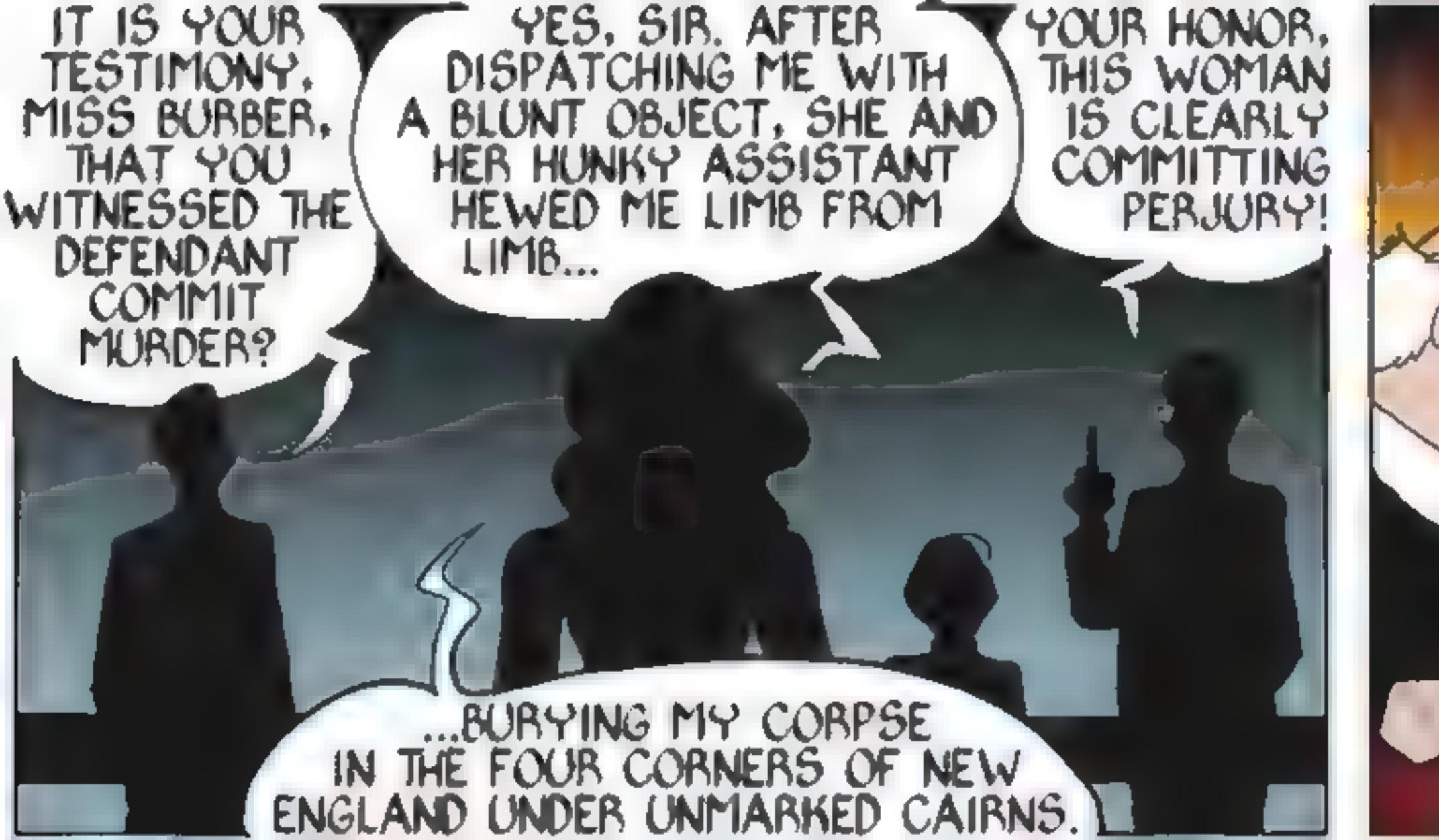


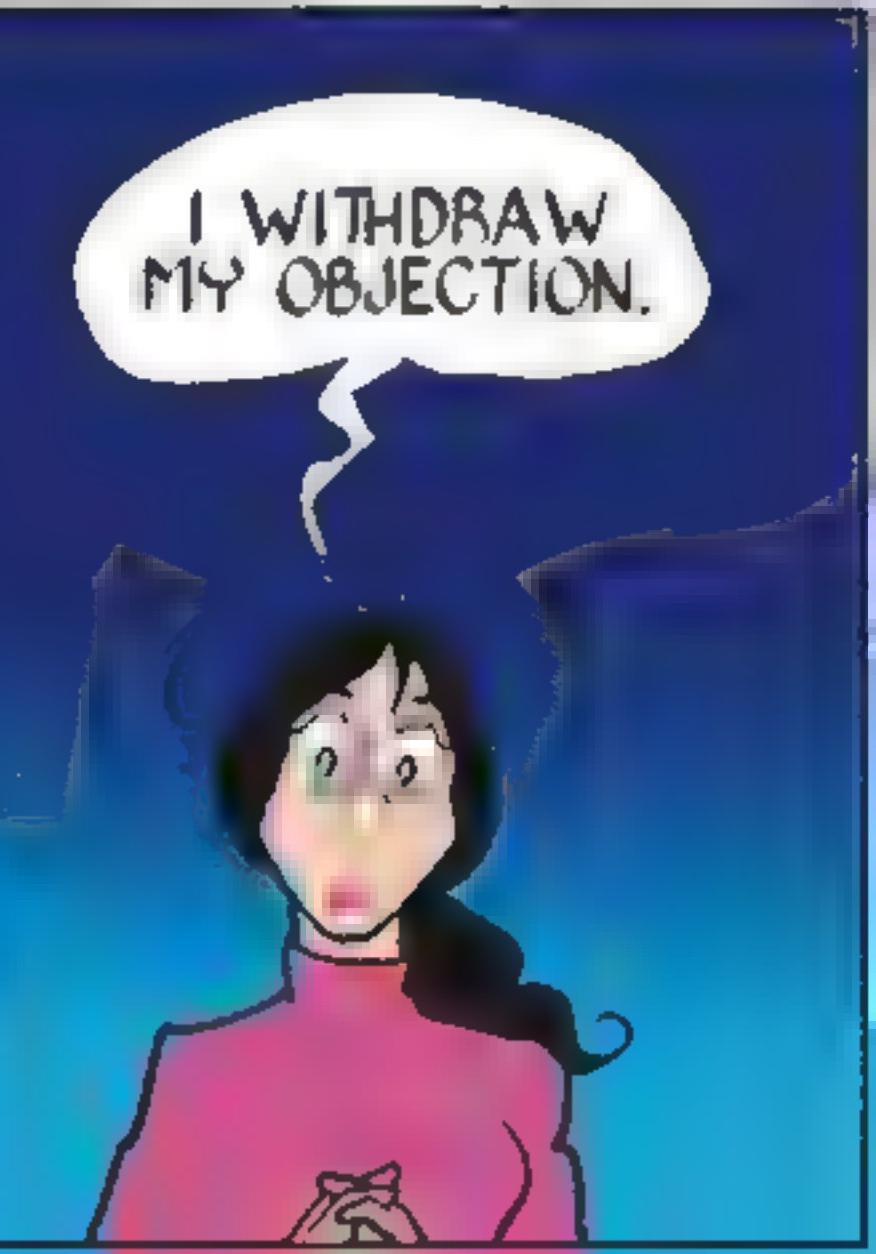




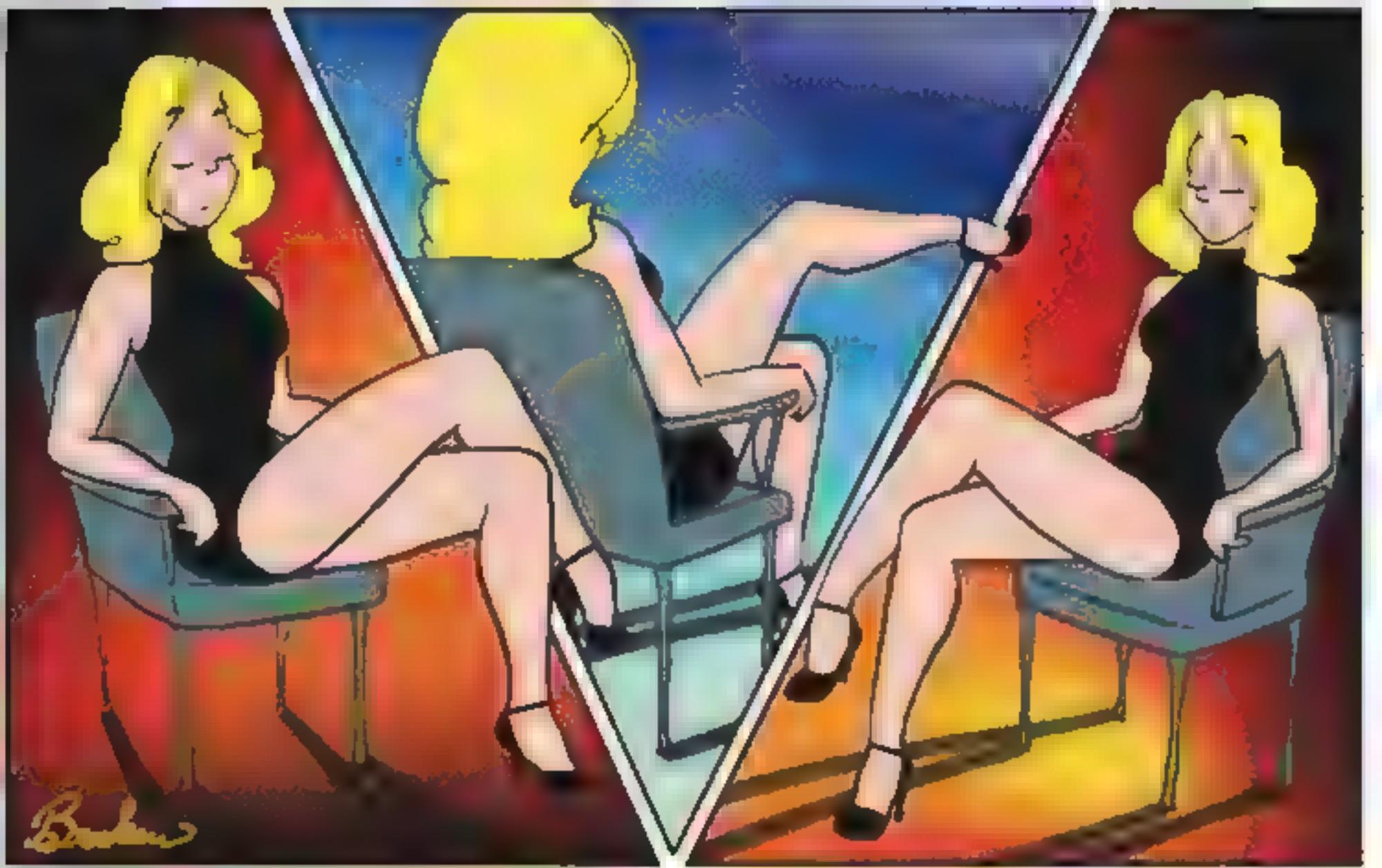


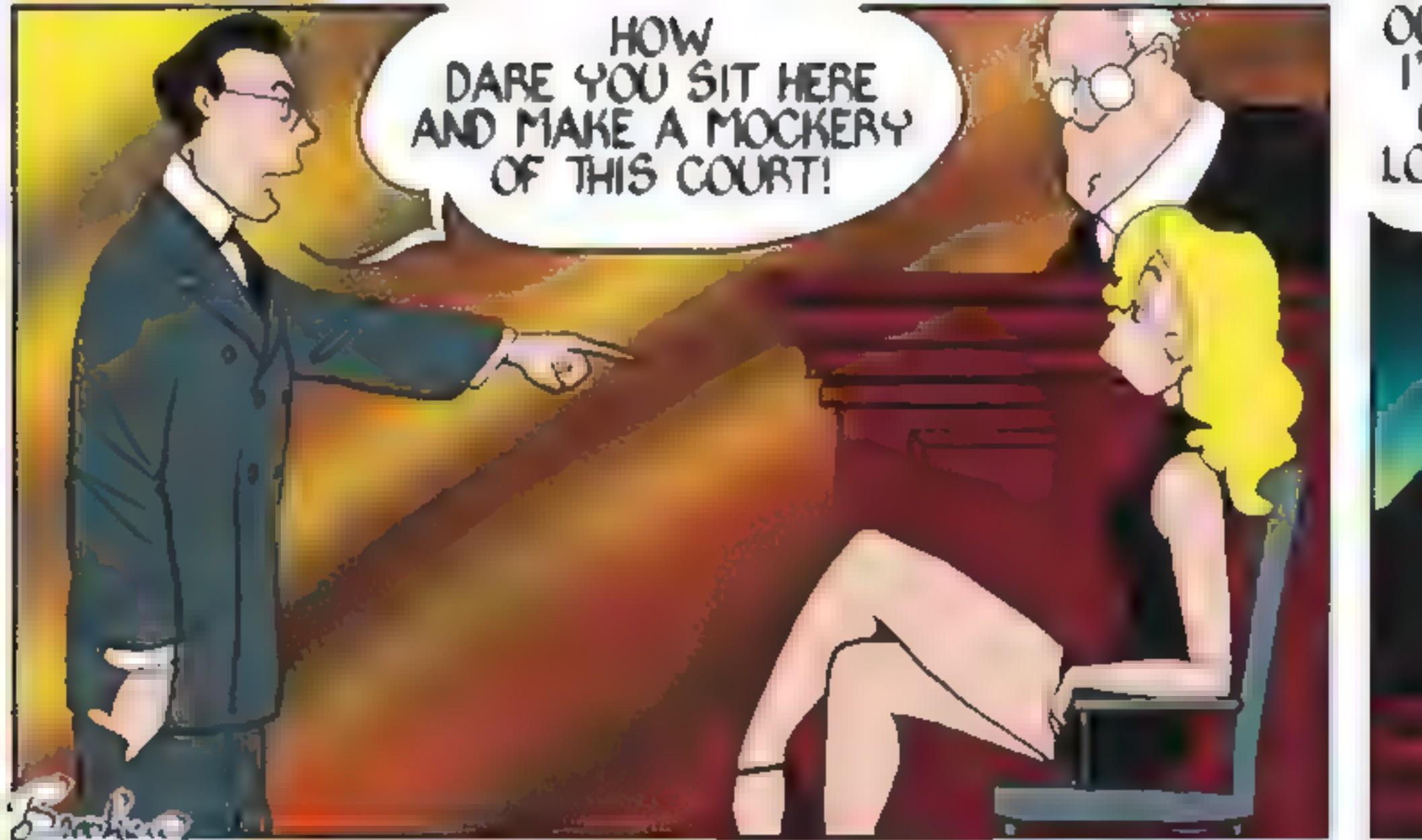


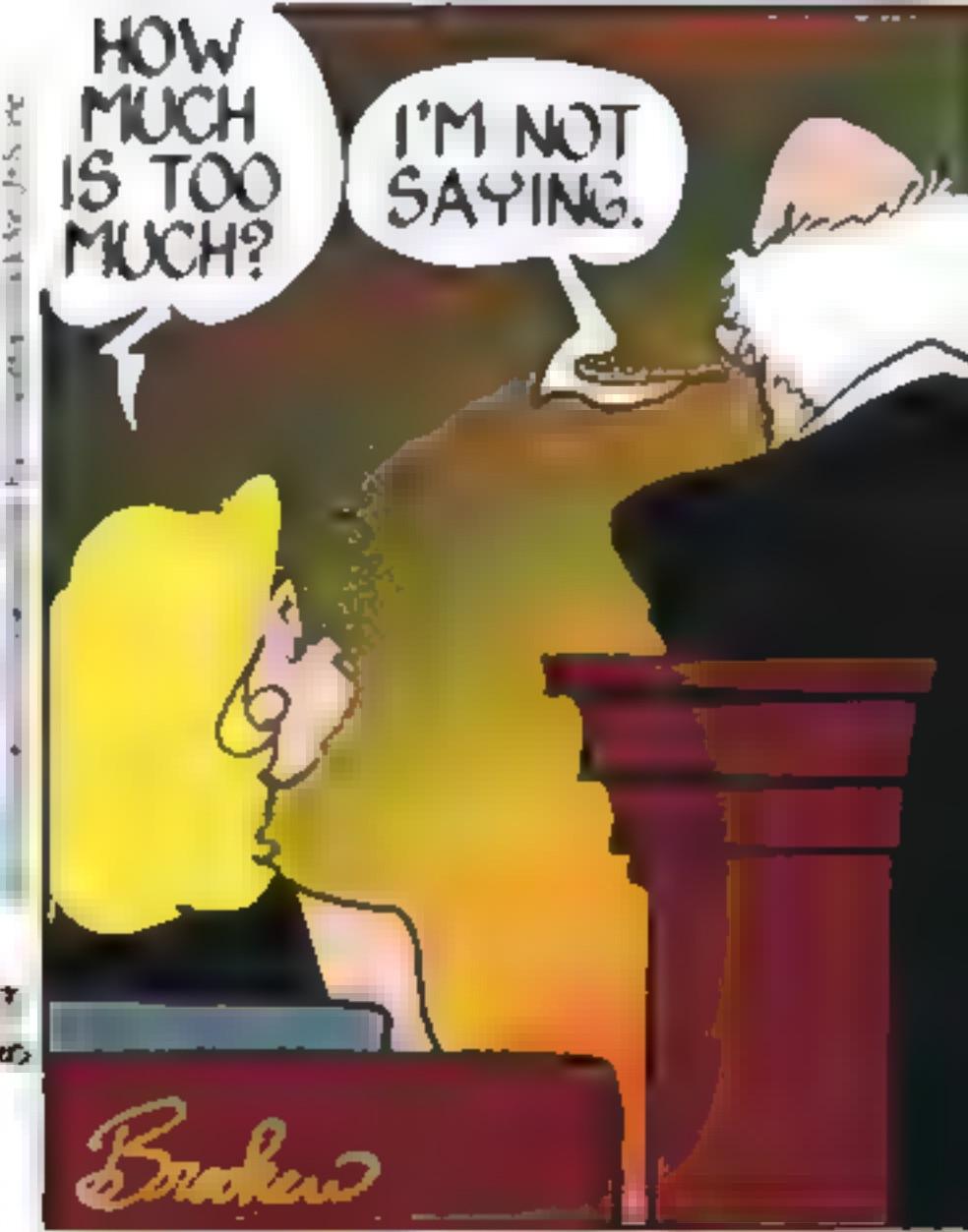
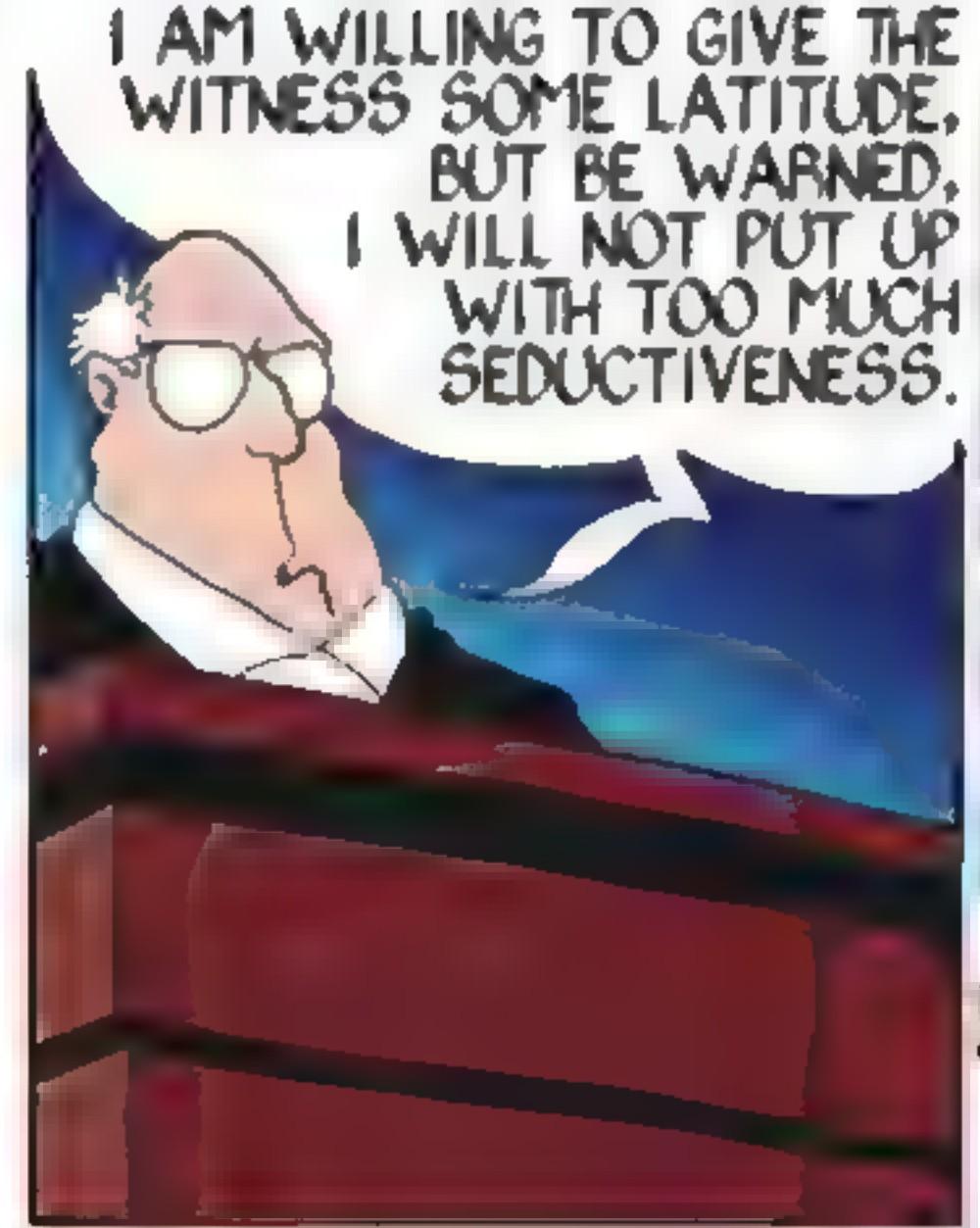
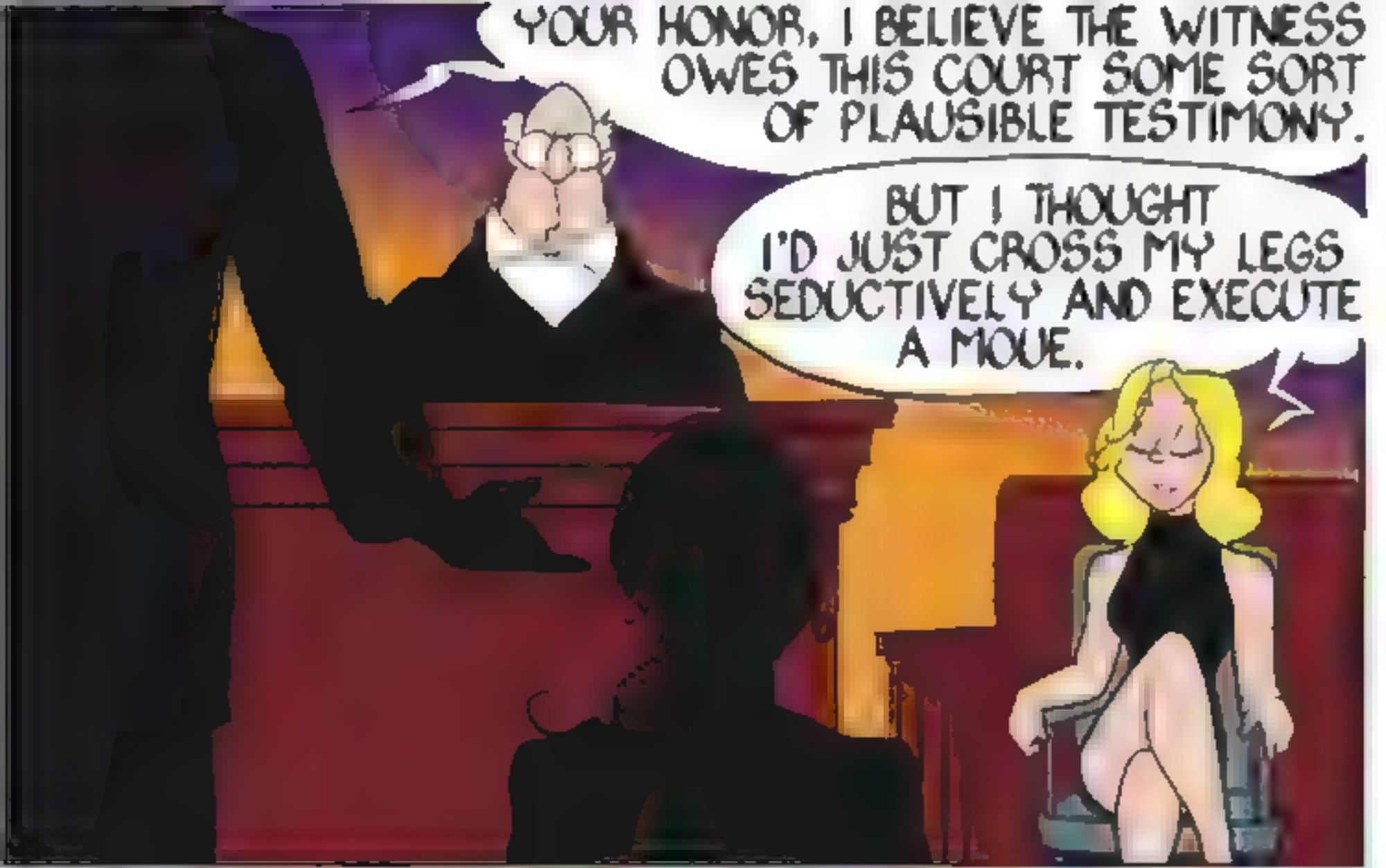












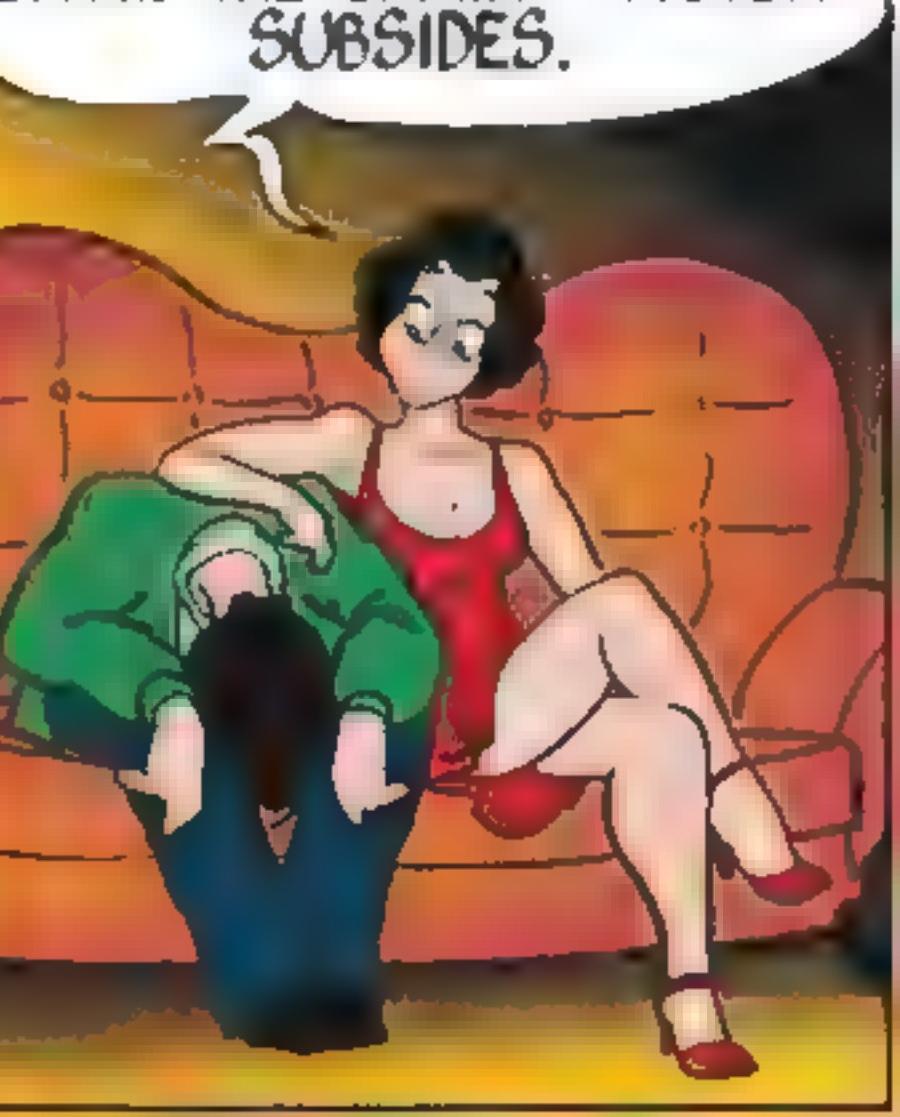


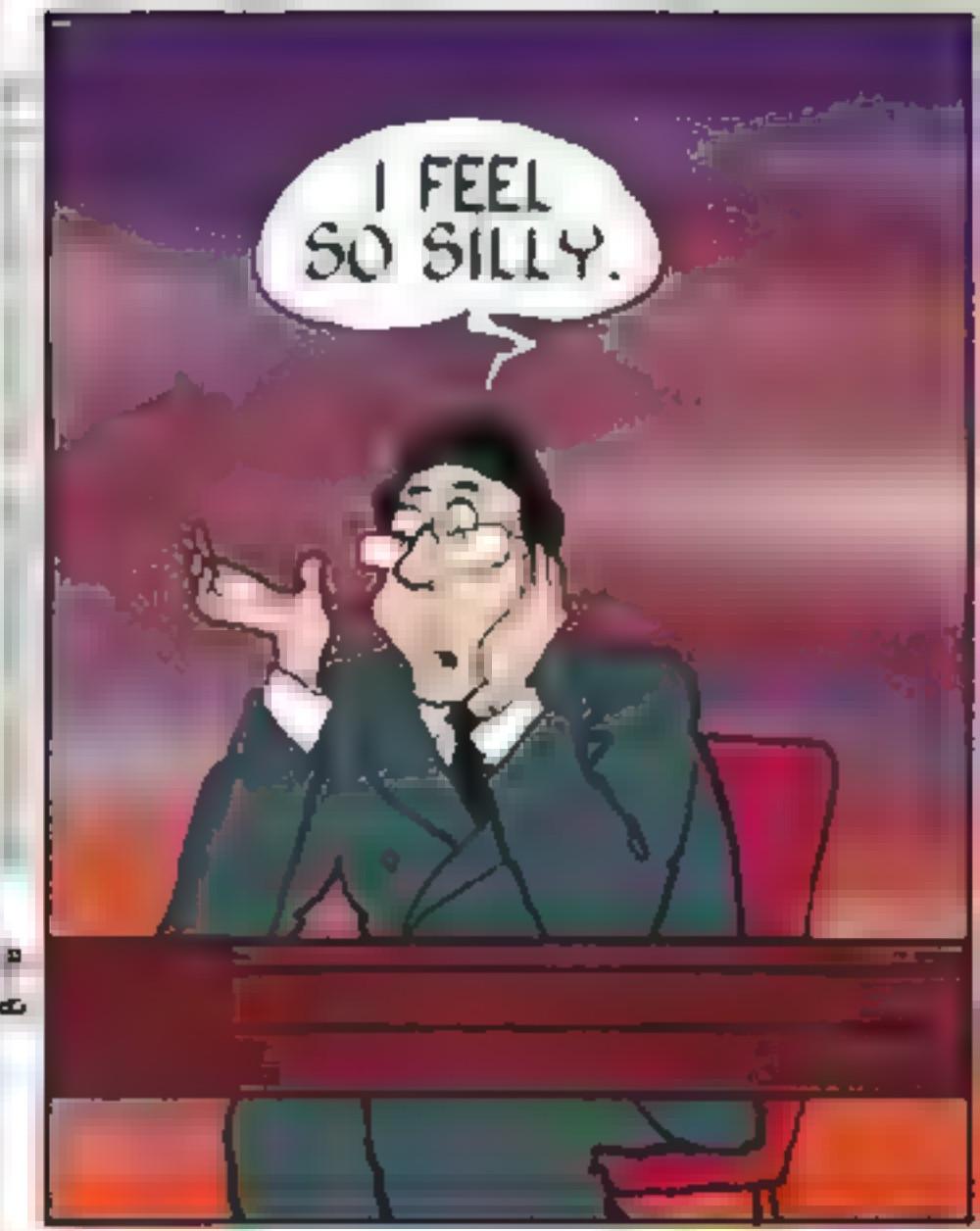
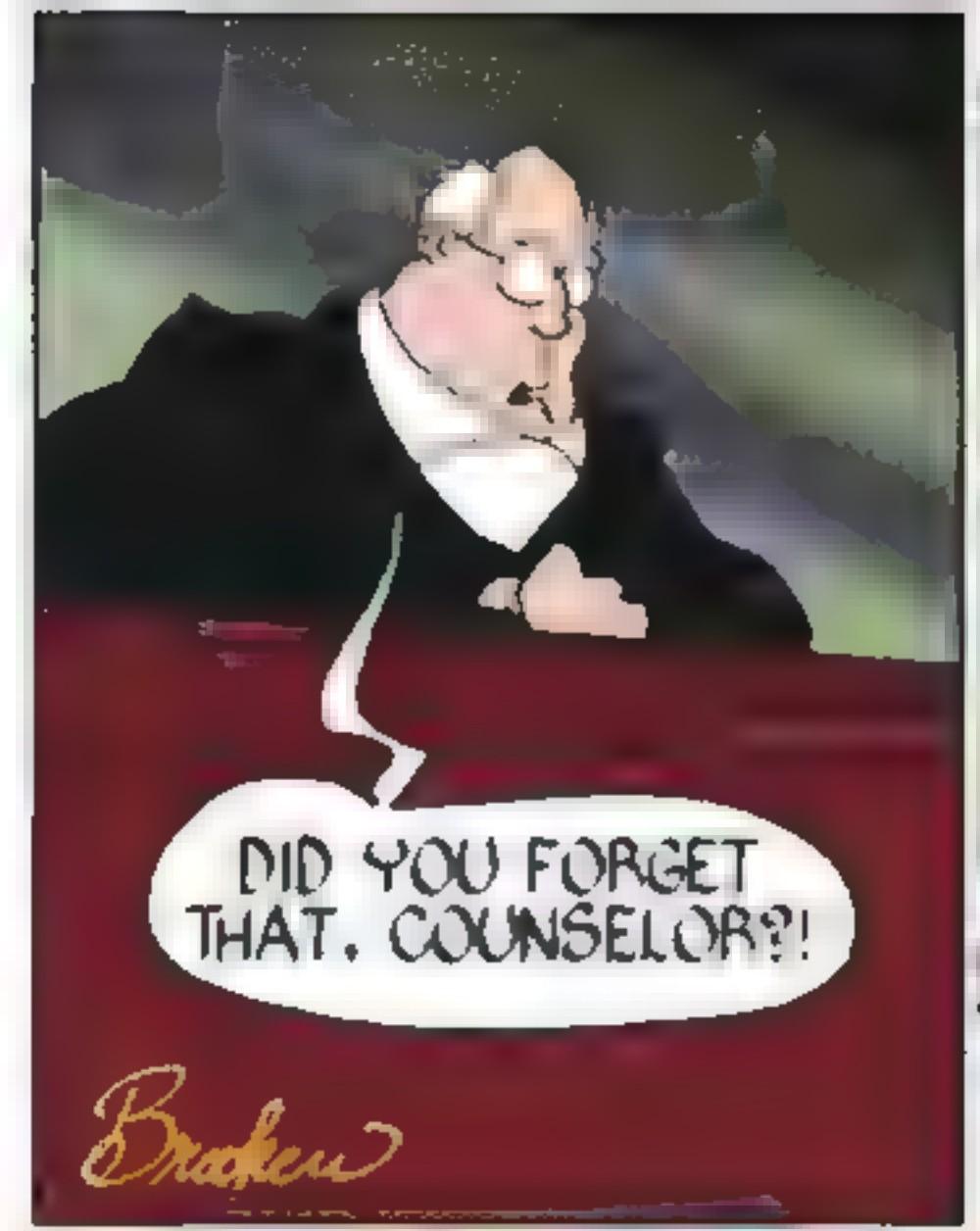
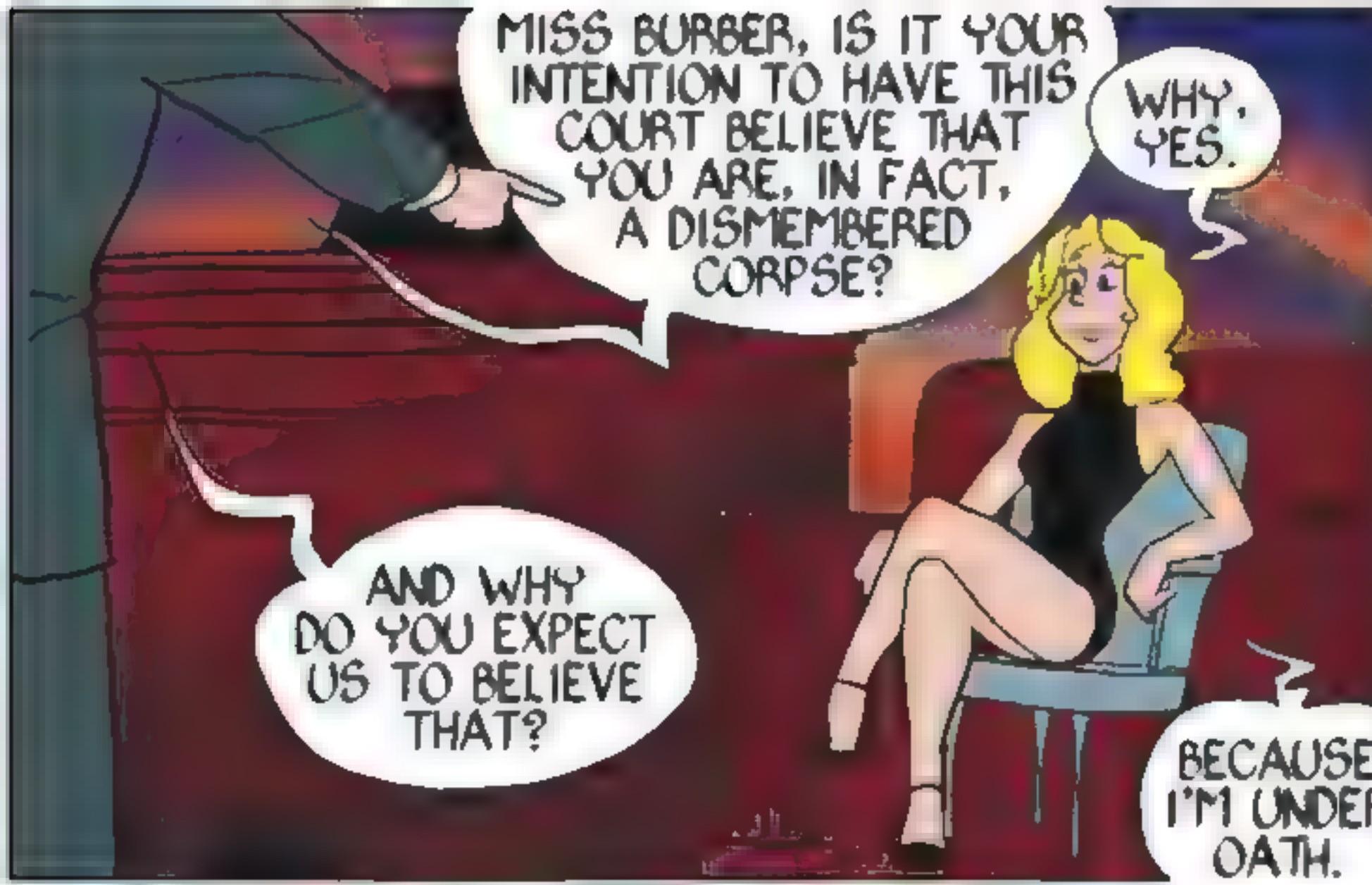
EDDA'S
TESTIFYING
IN FLEURIE'S
TRIAL. AND NOW
SUDENLY THE NEWS
MEDIA ARE SNIFFING HER
AROUND MYSTERY
"ZOMBIE CHICK".

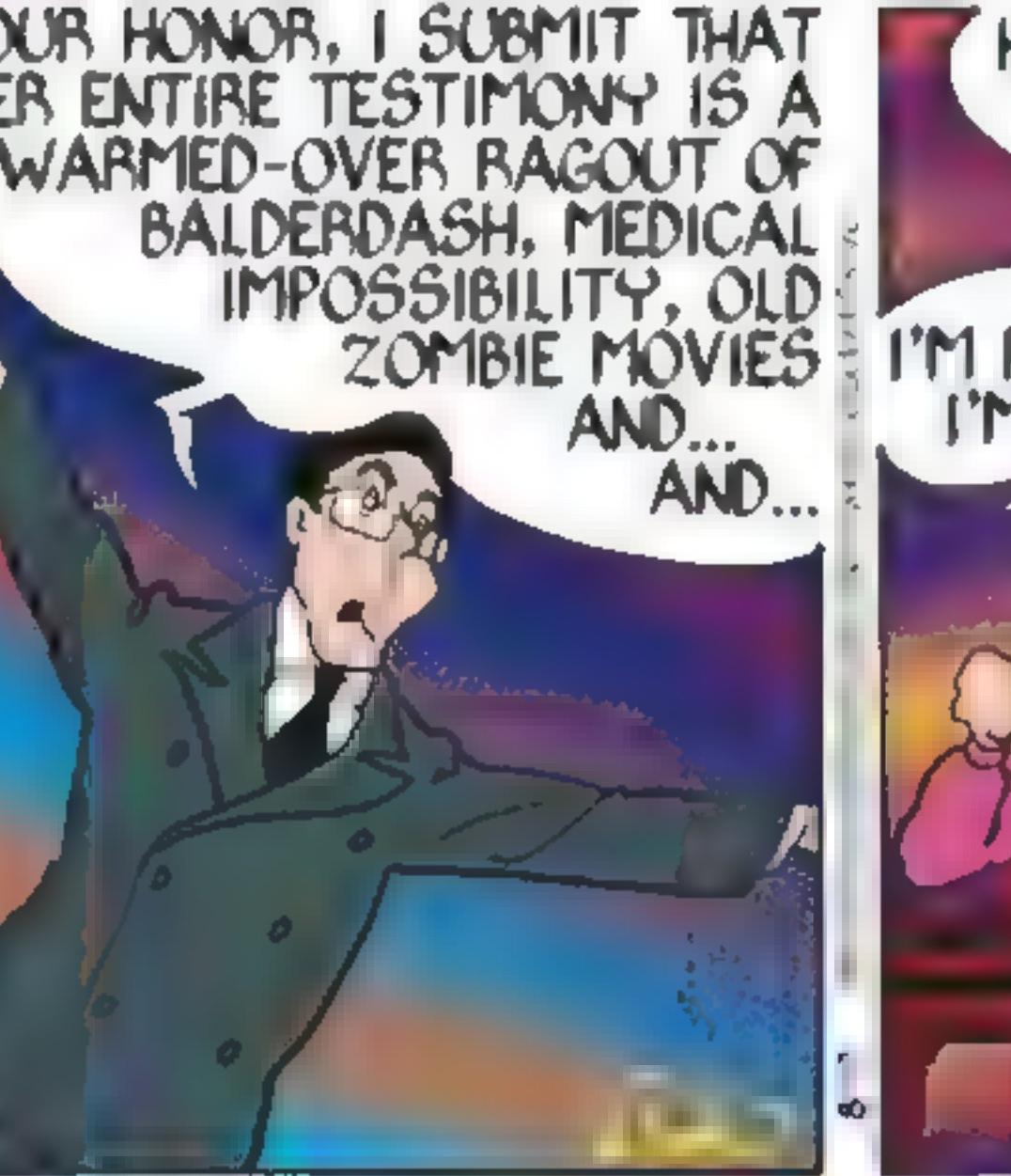
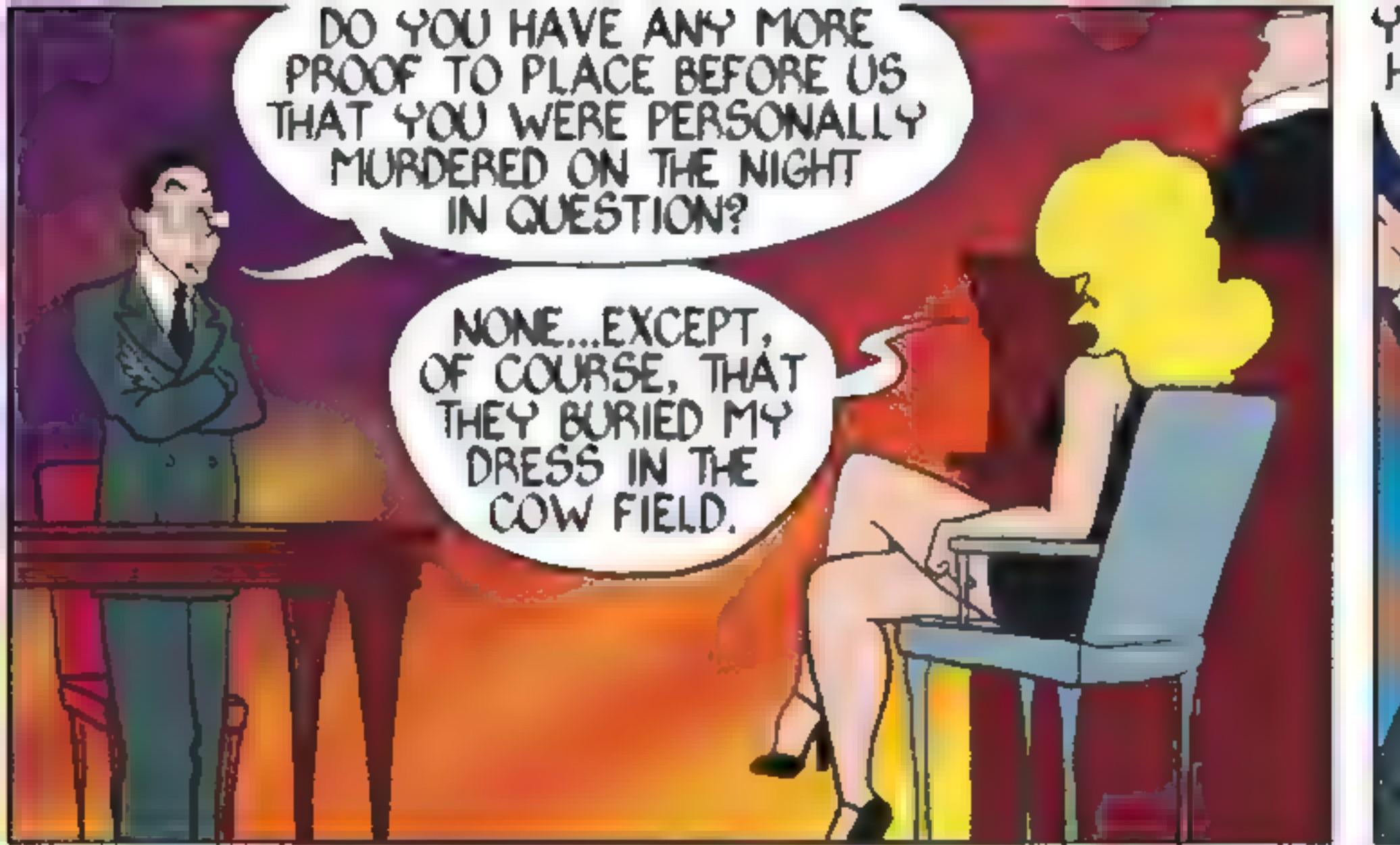


I TAUGHT HER
EVERYTHING
SHE KNOWS.

JUST KEEP YOUR HEAD THERE
UNTIL THE GRAINY VISION
SUBSIDES.

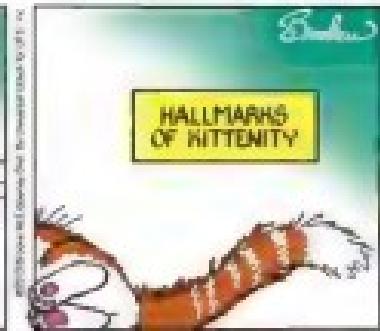
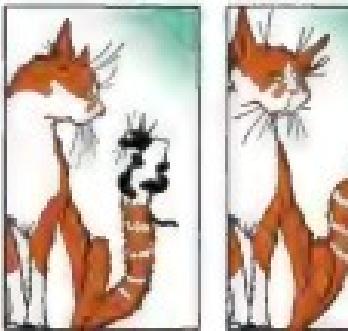
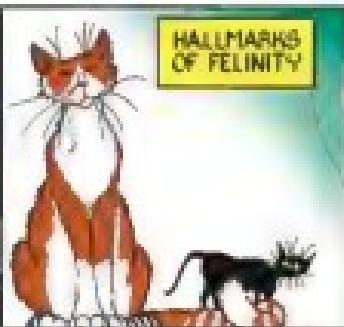


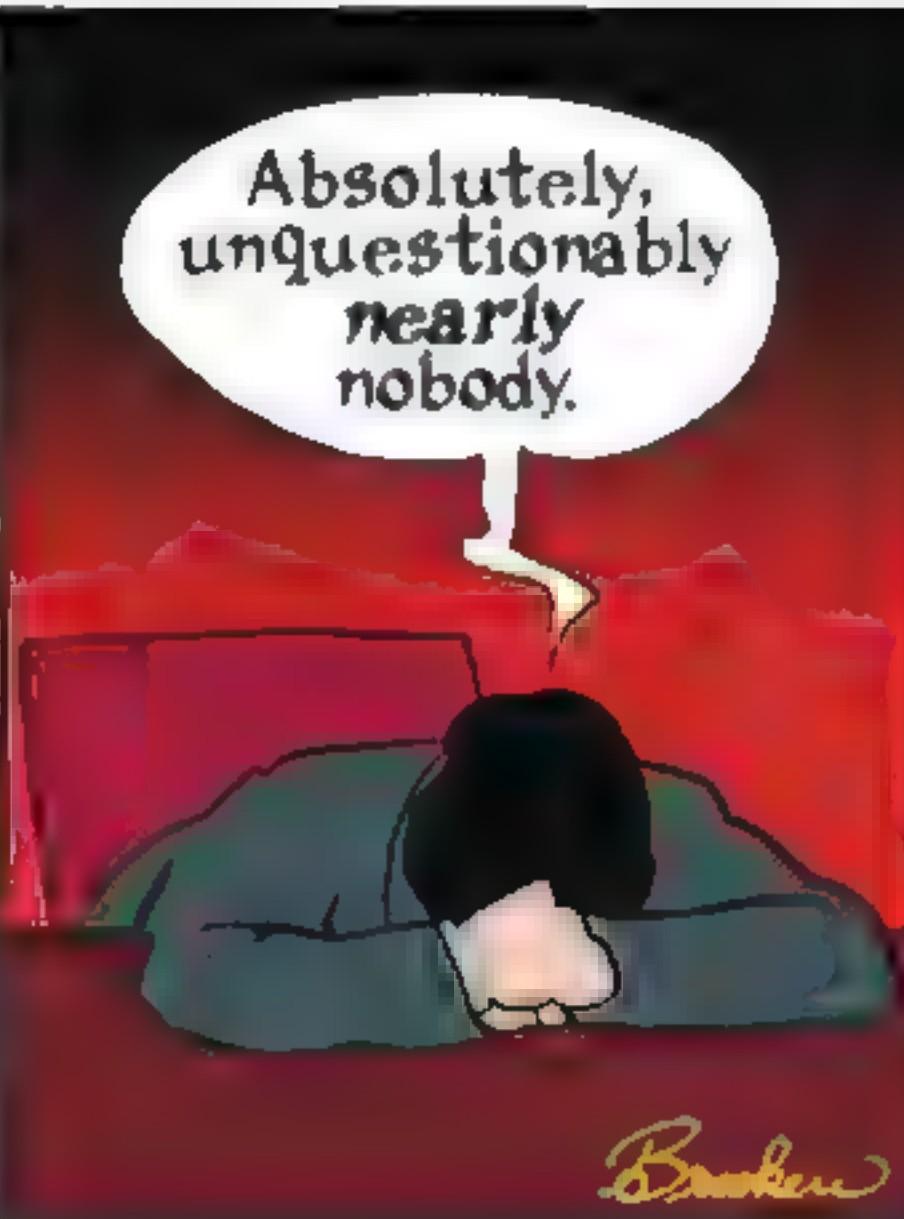


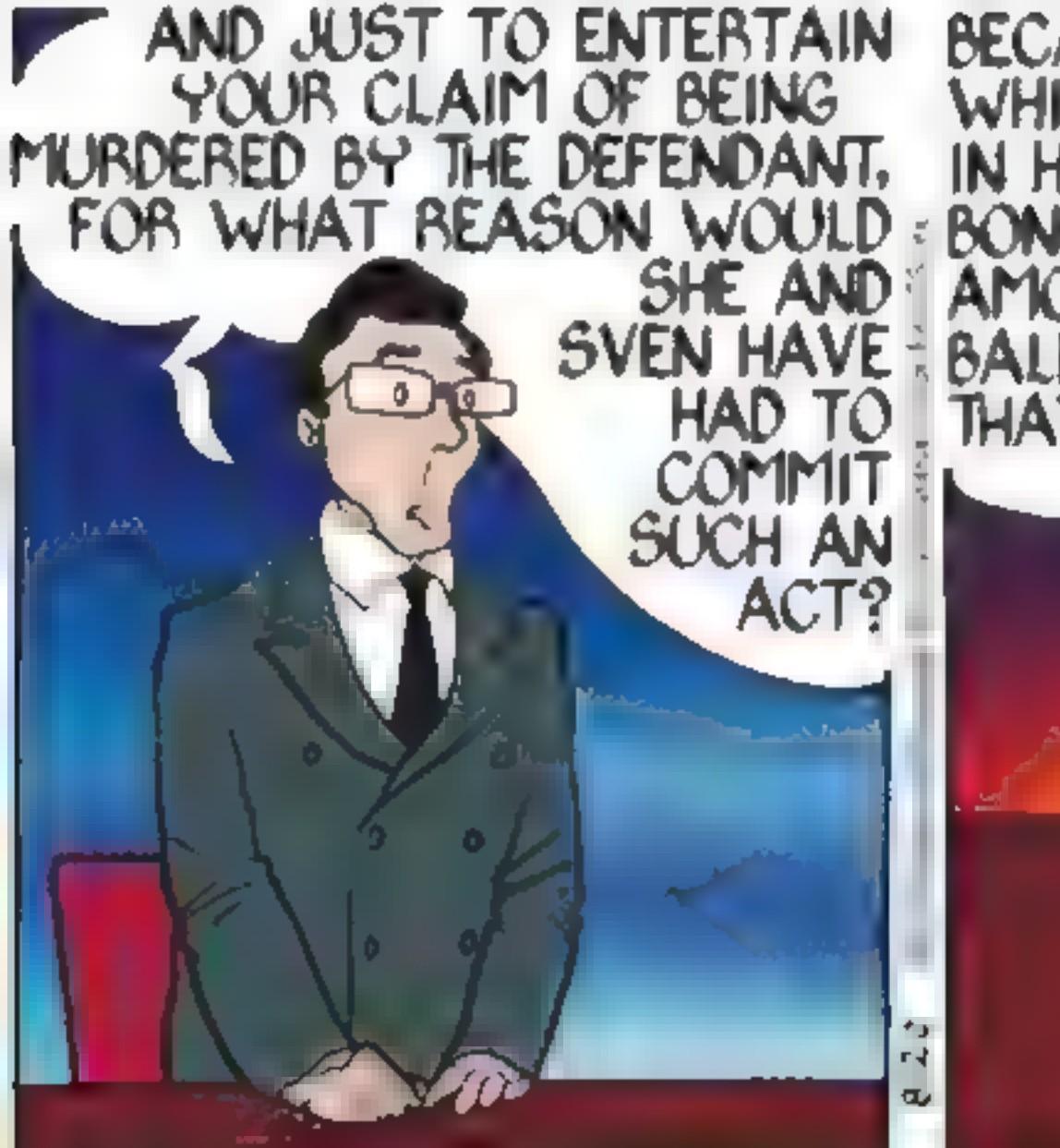


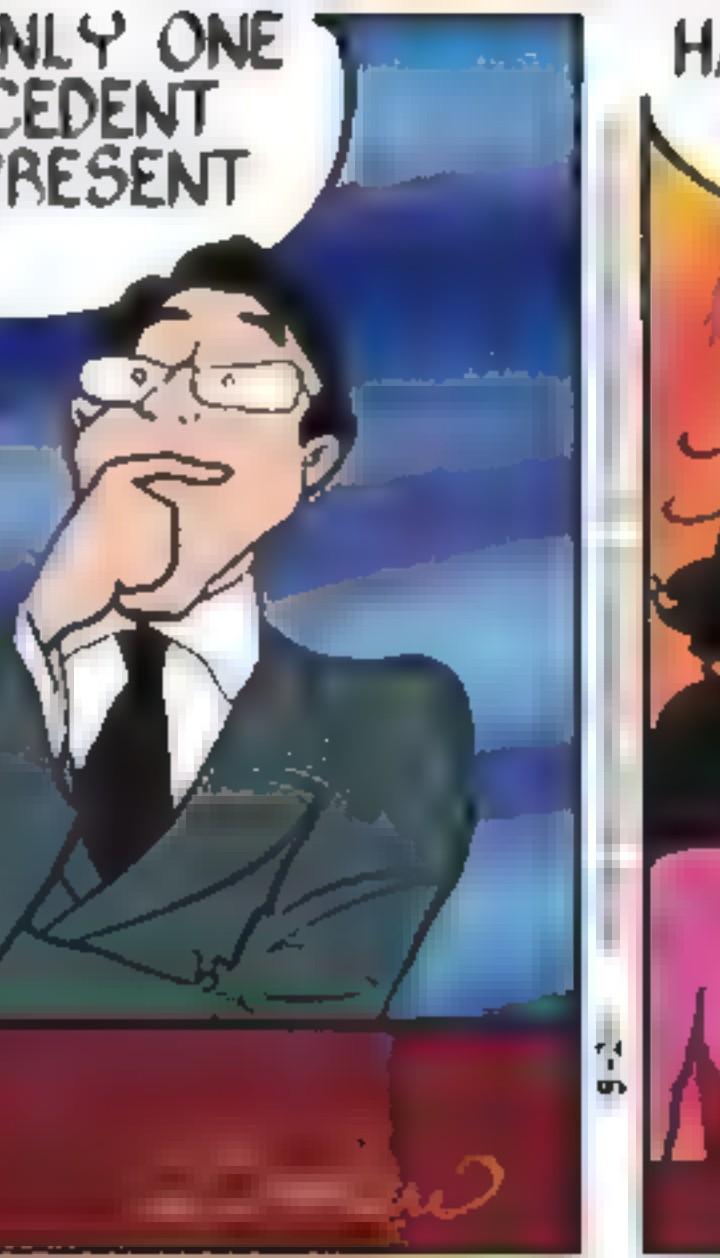
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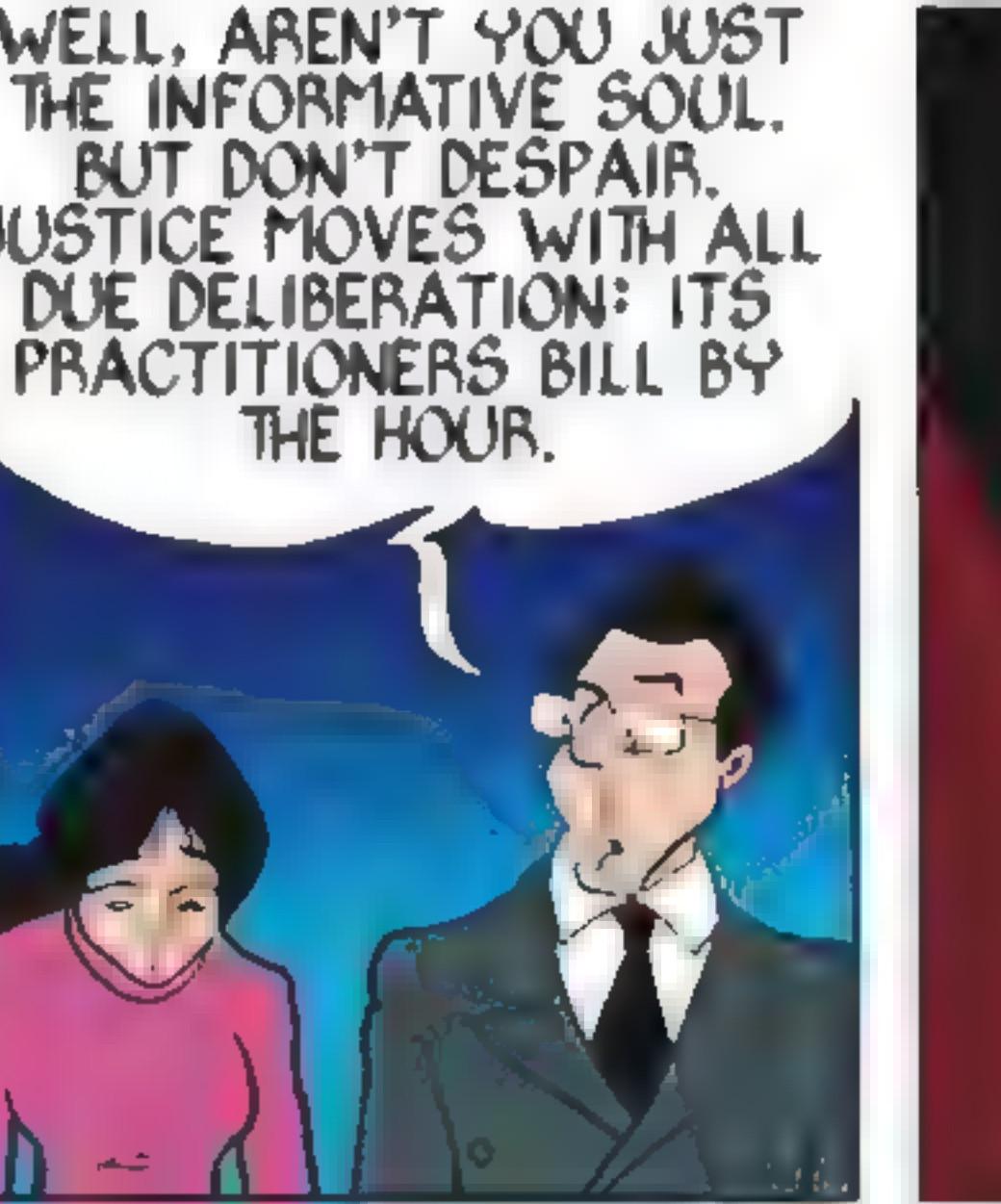
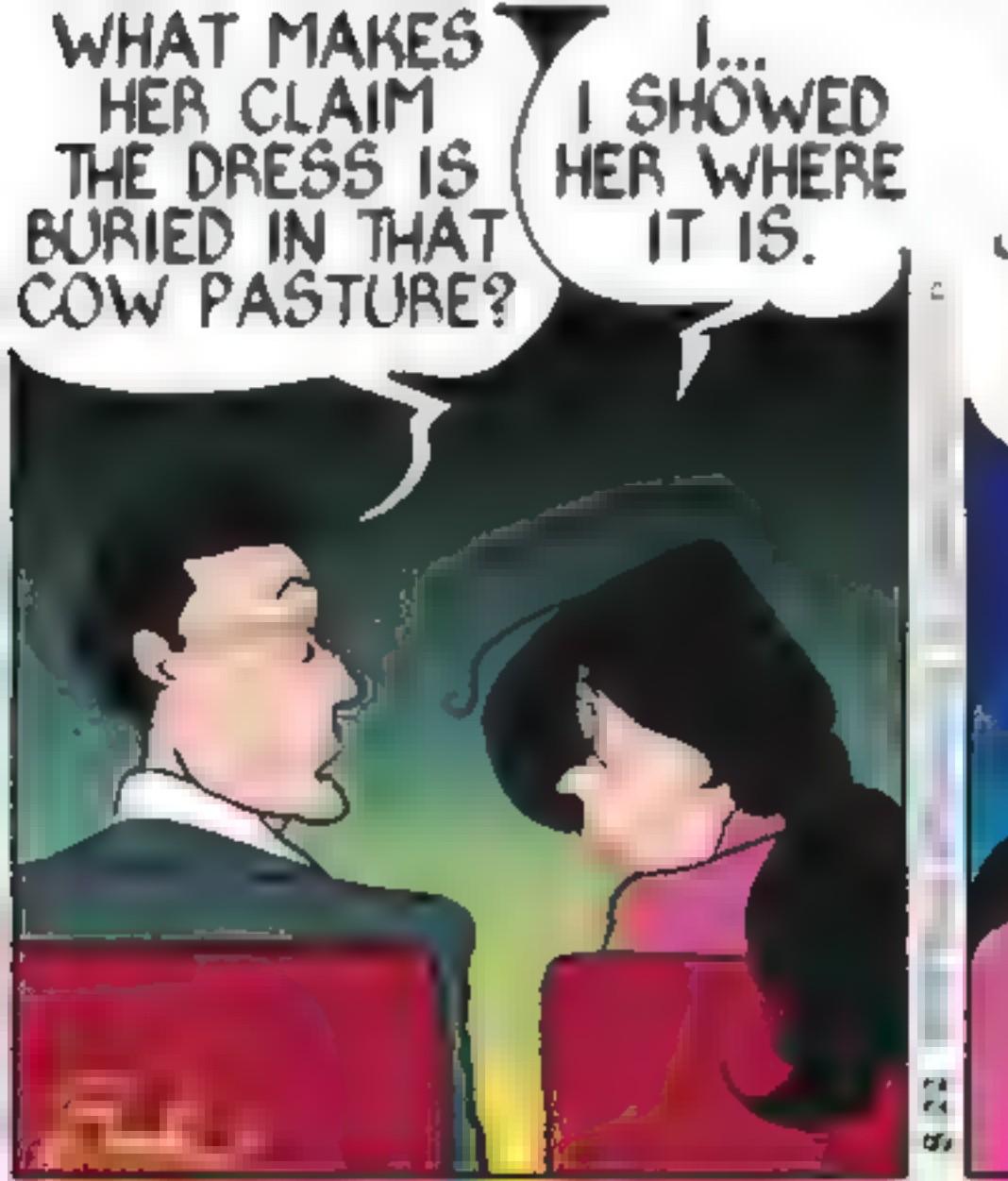
CHICKWEED LANE

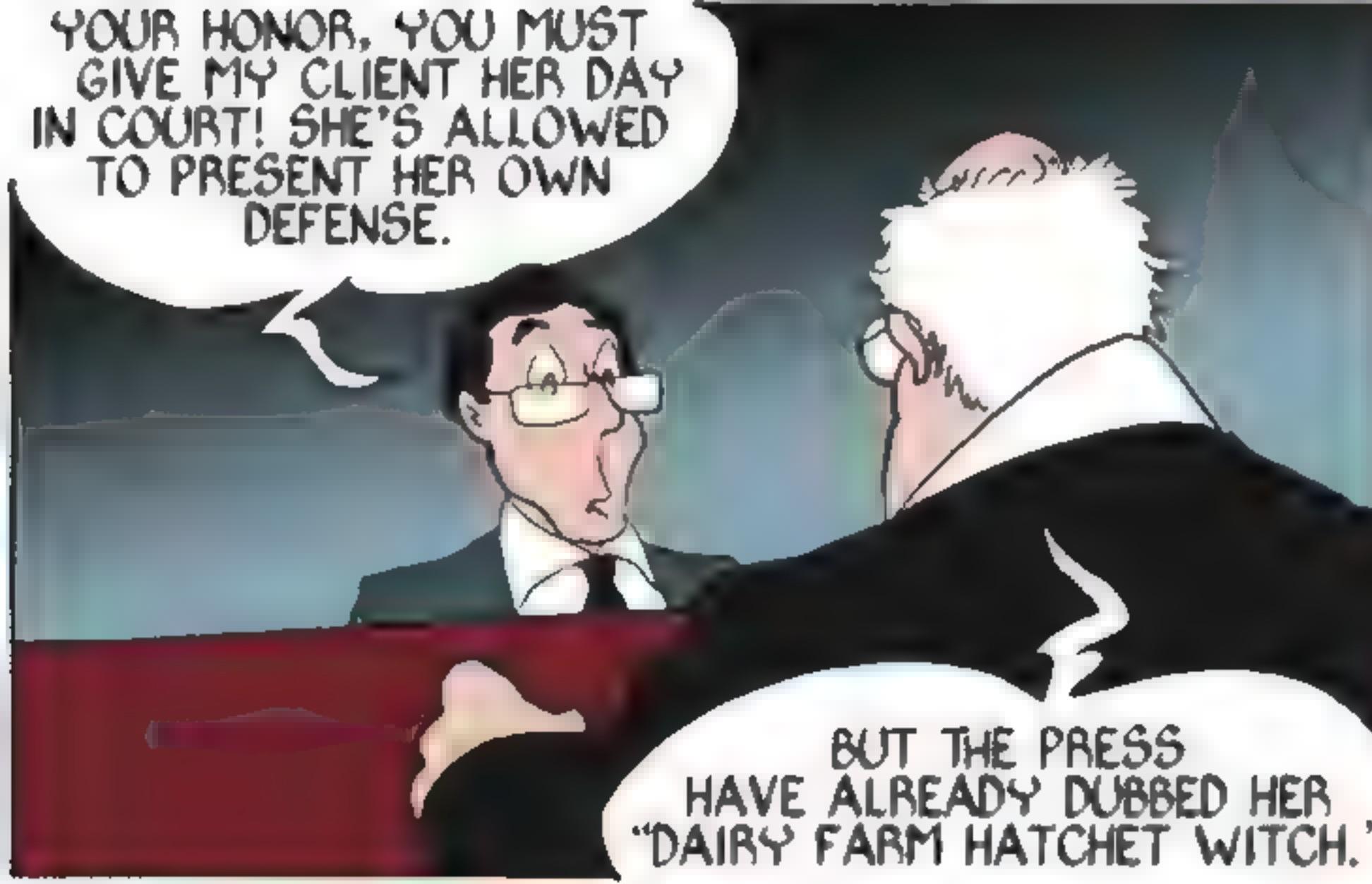


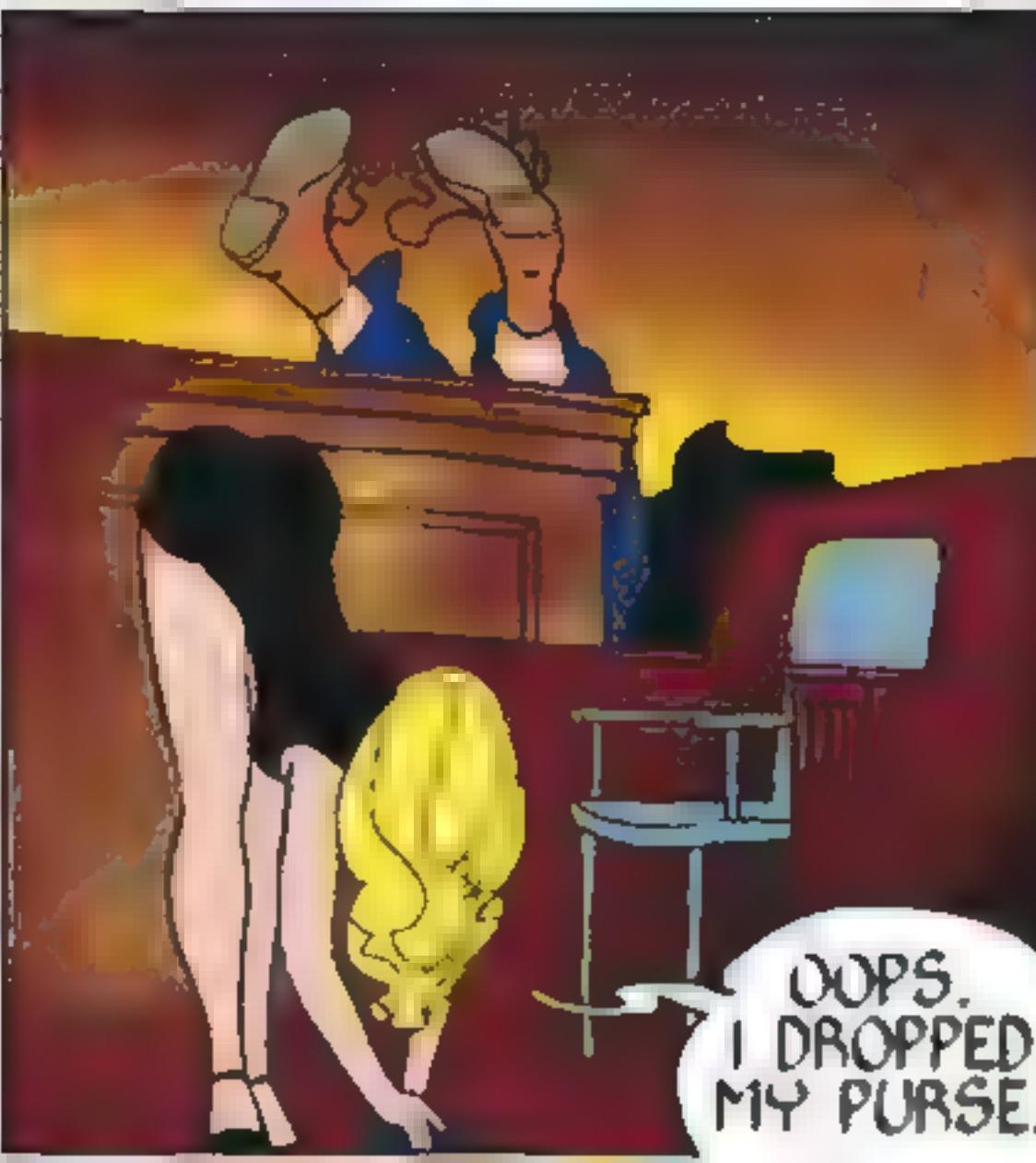


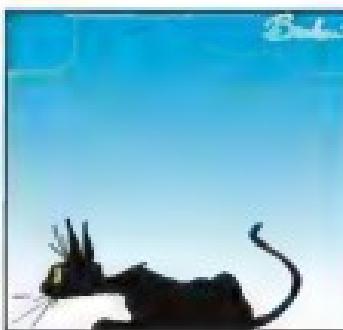
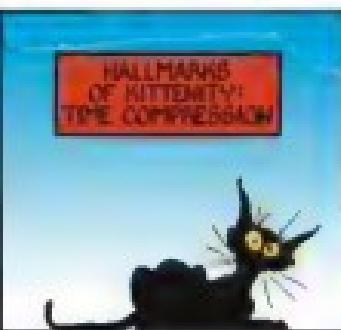




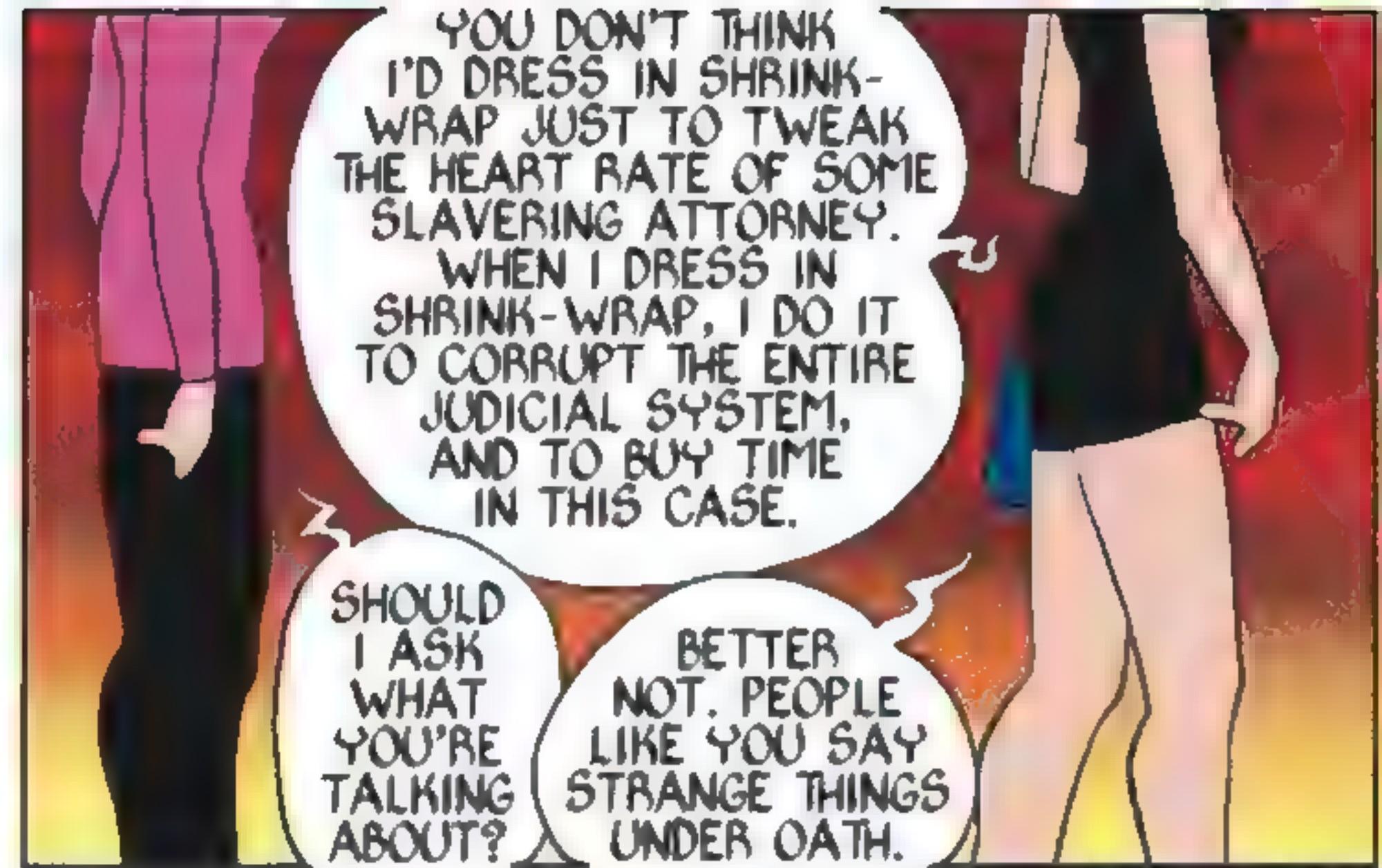
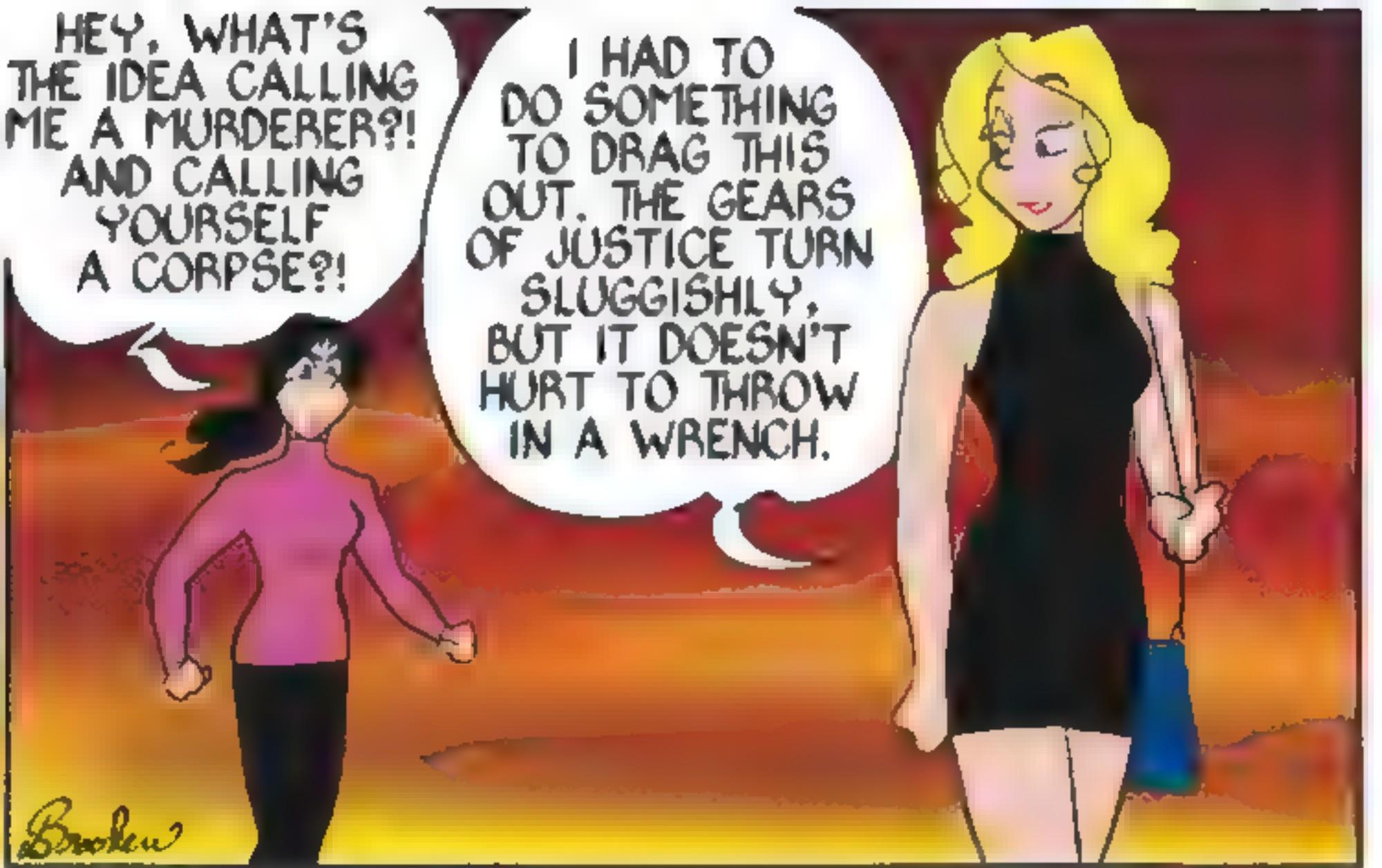


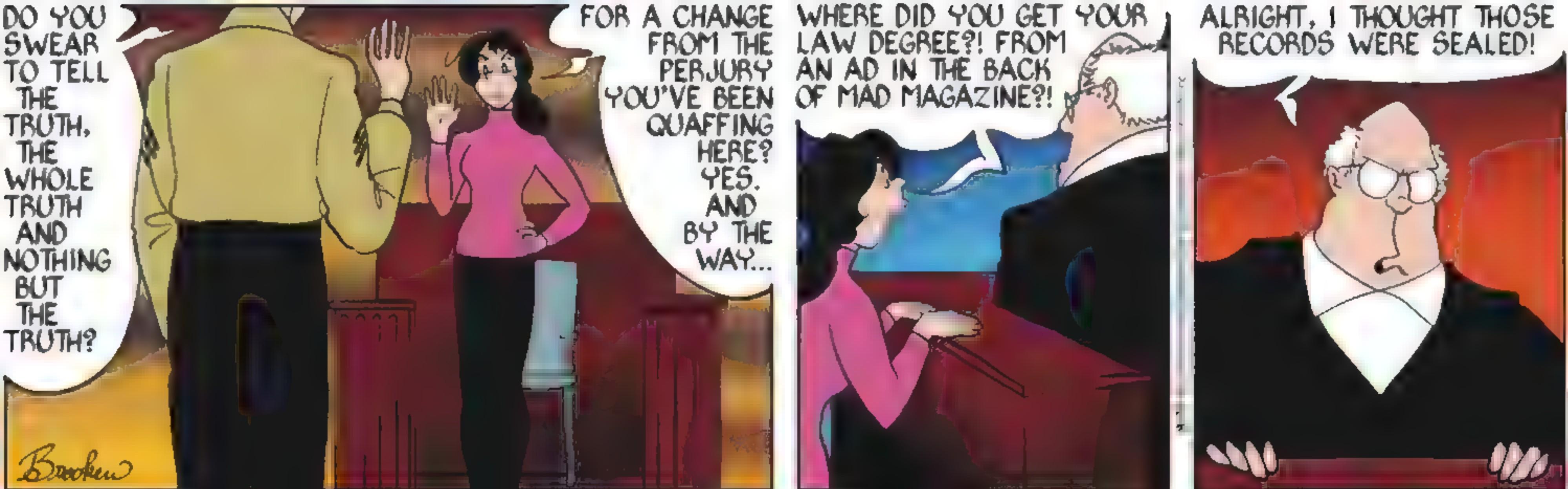


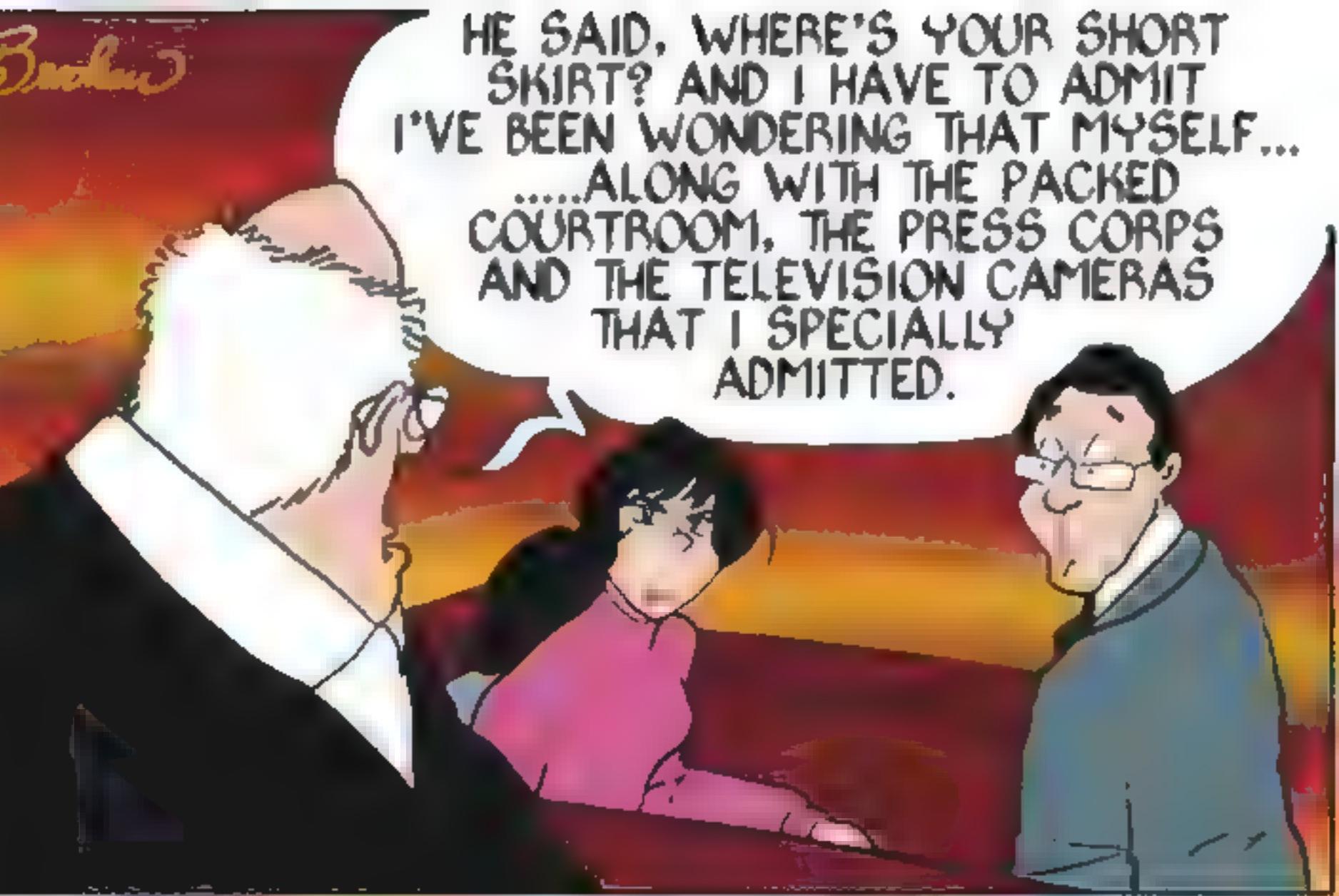




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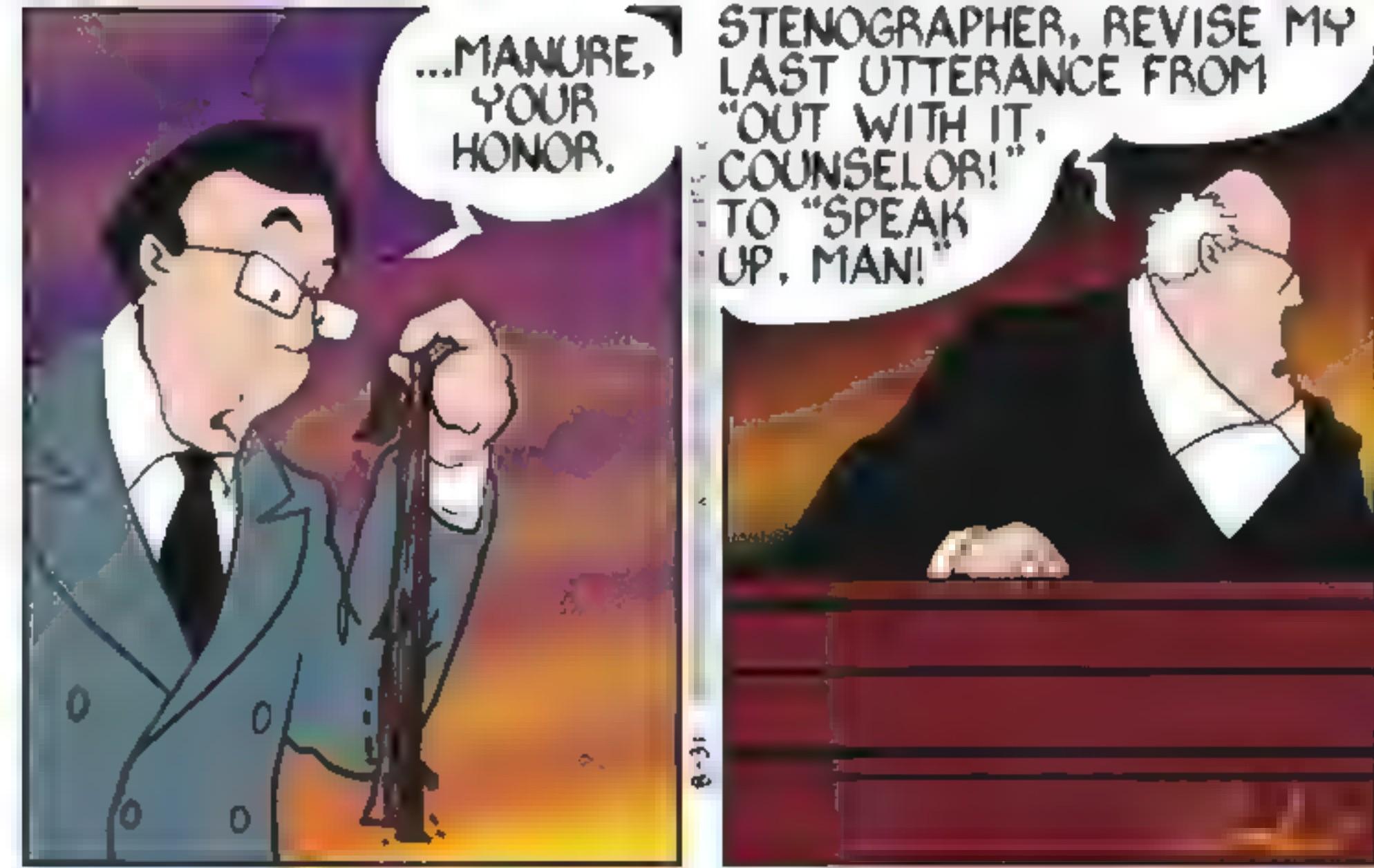




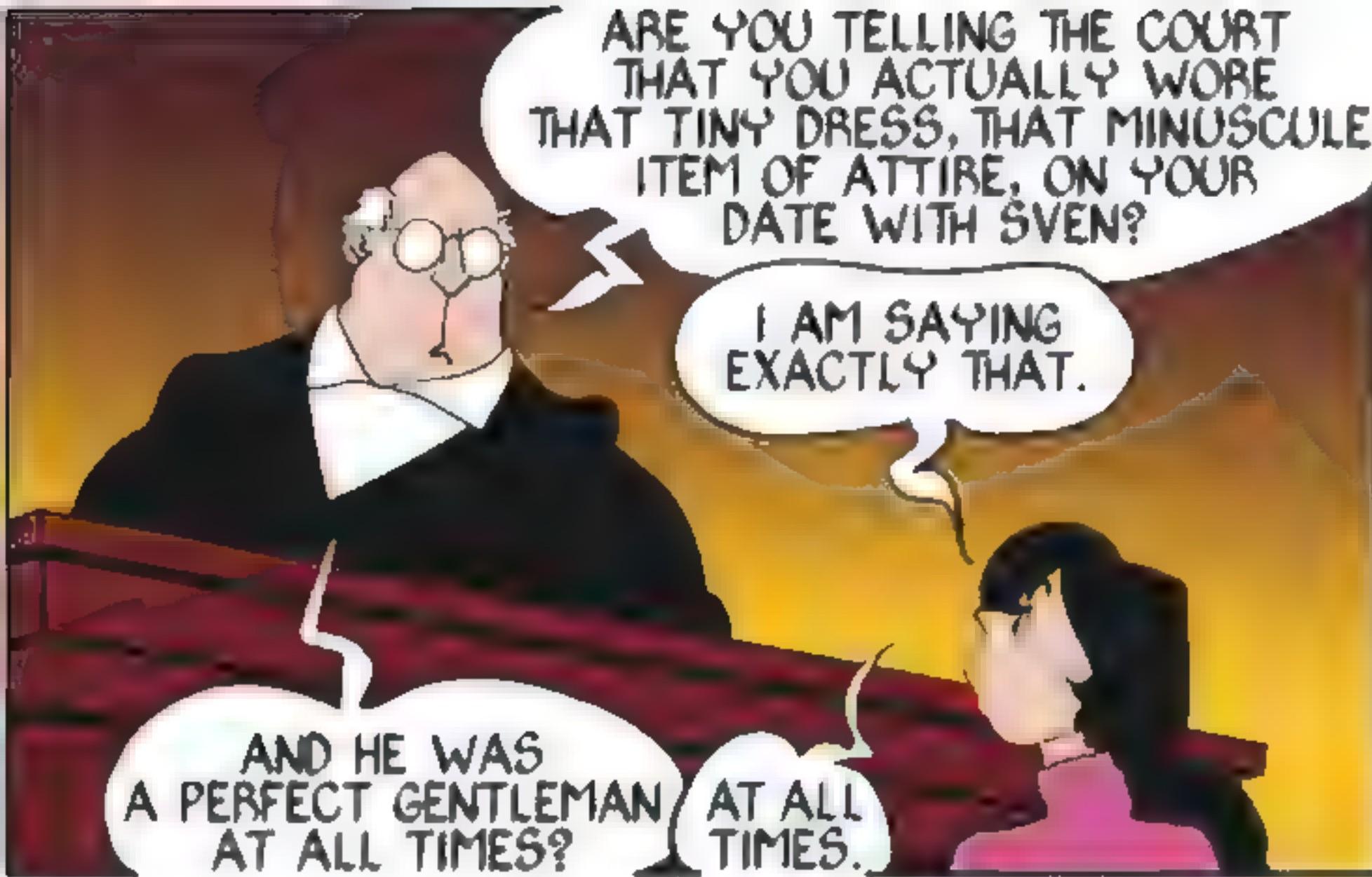






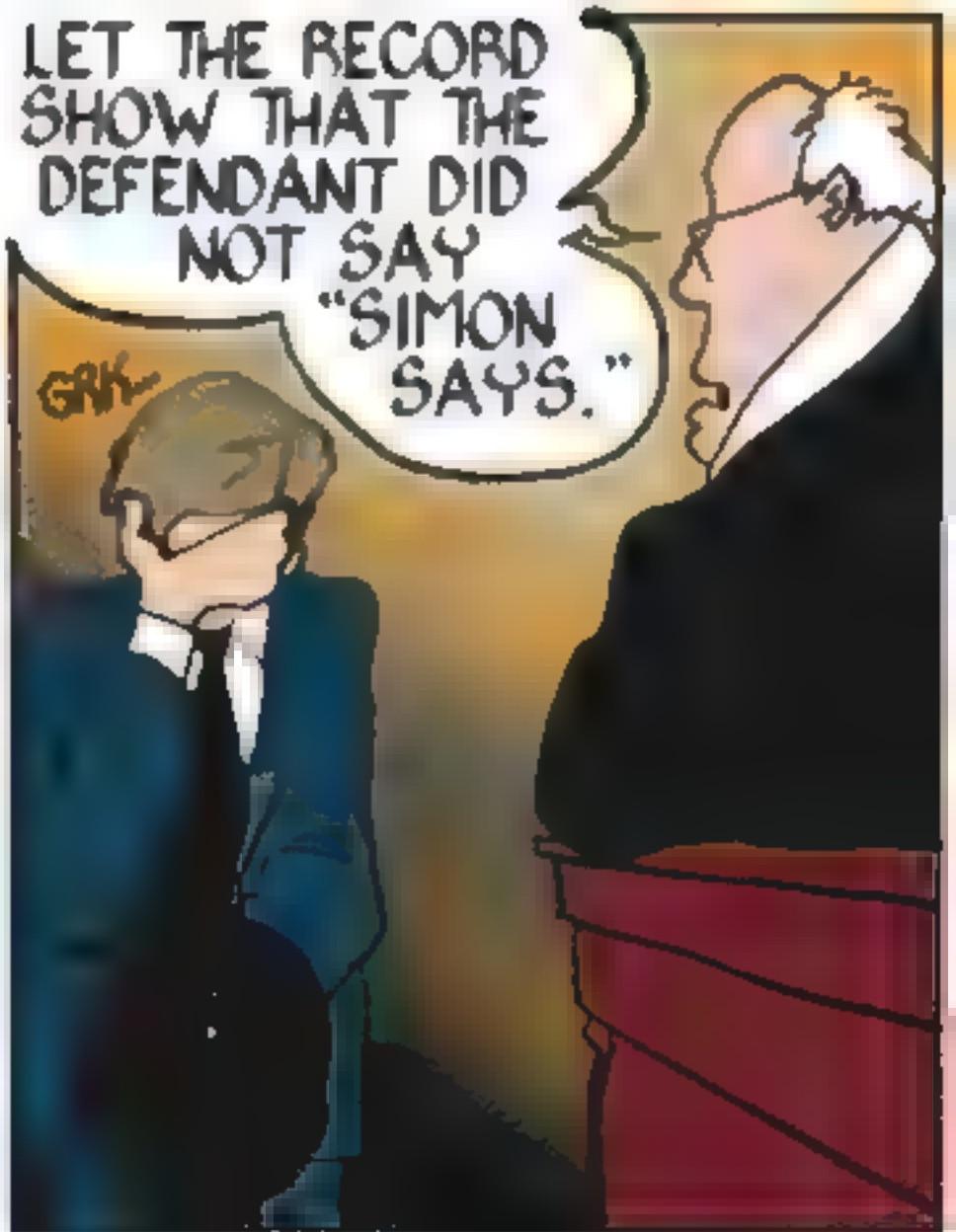
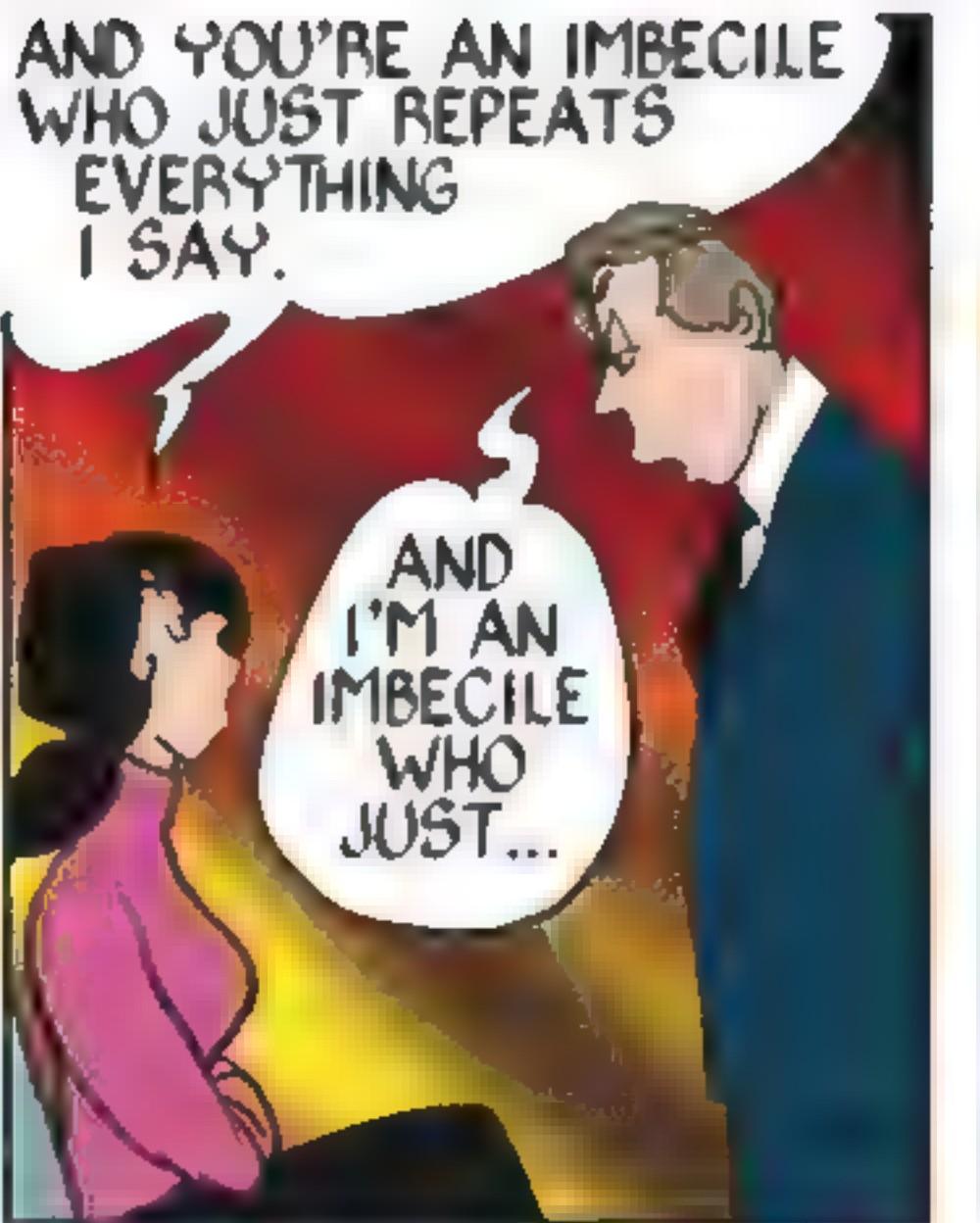
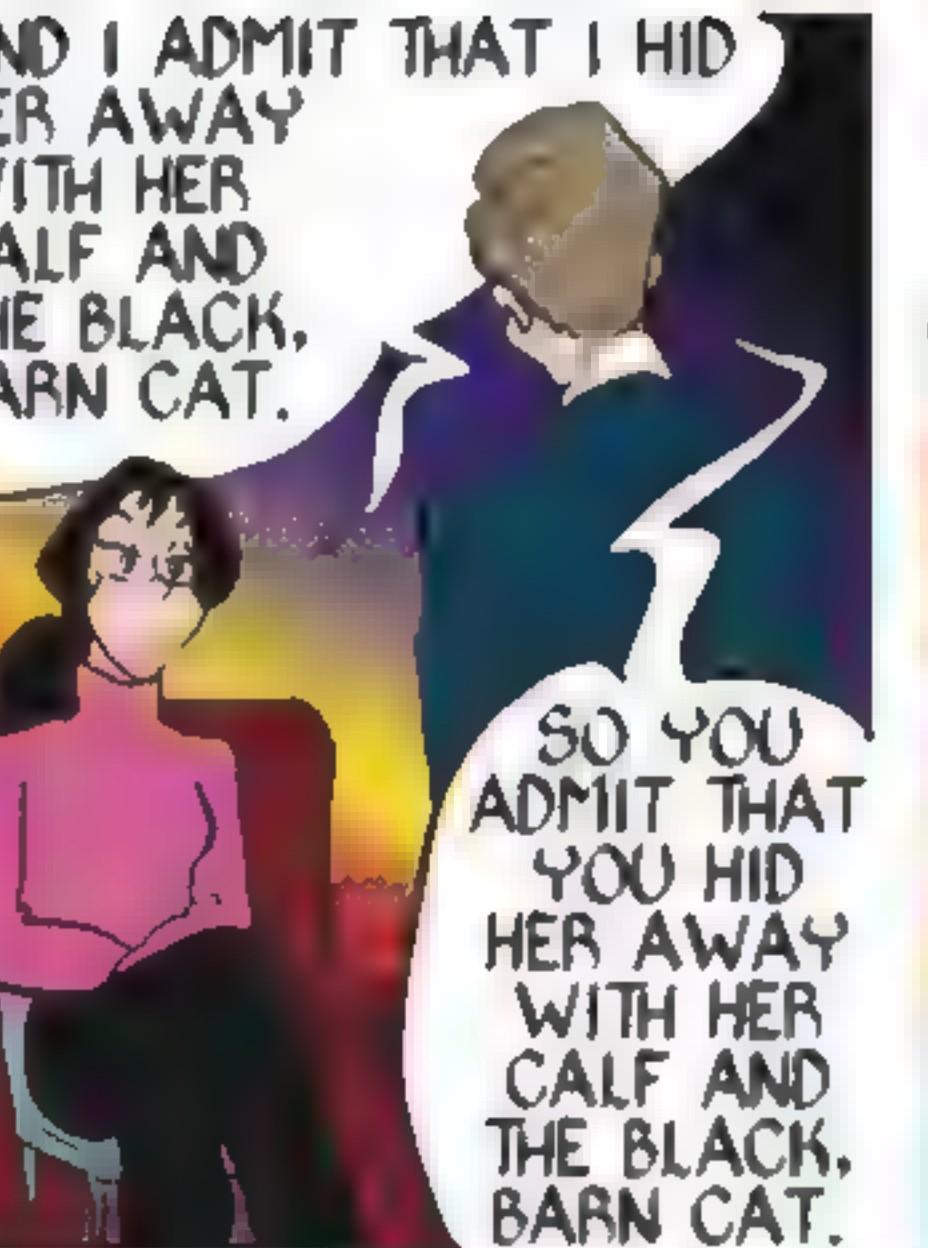
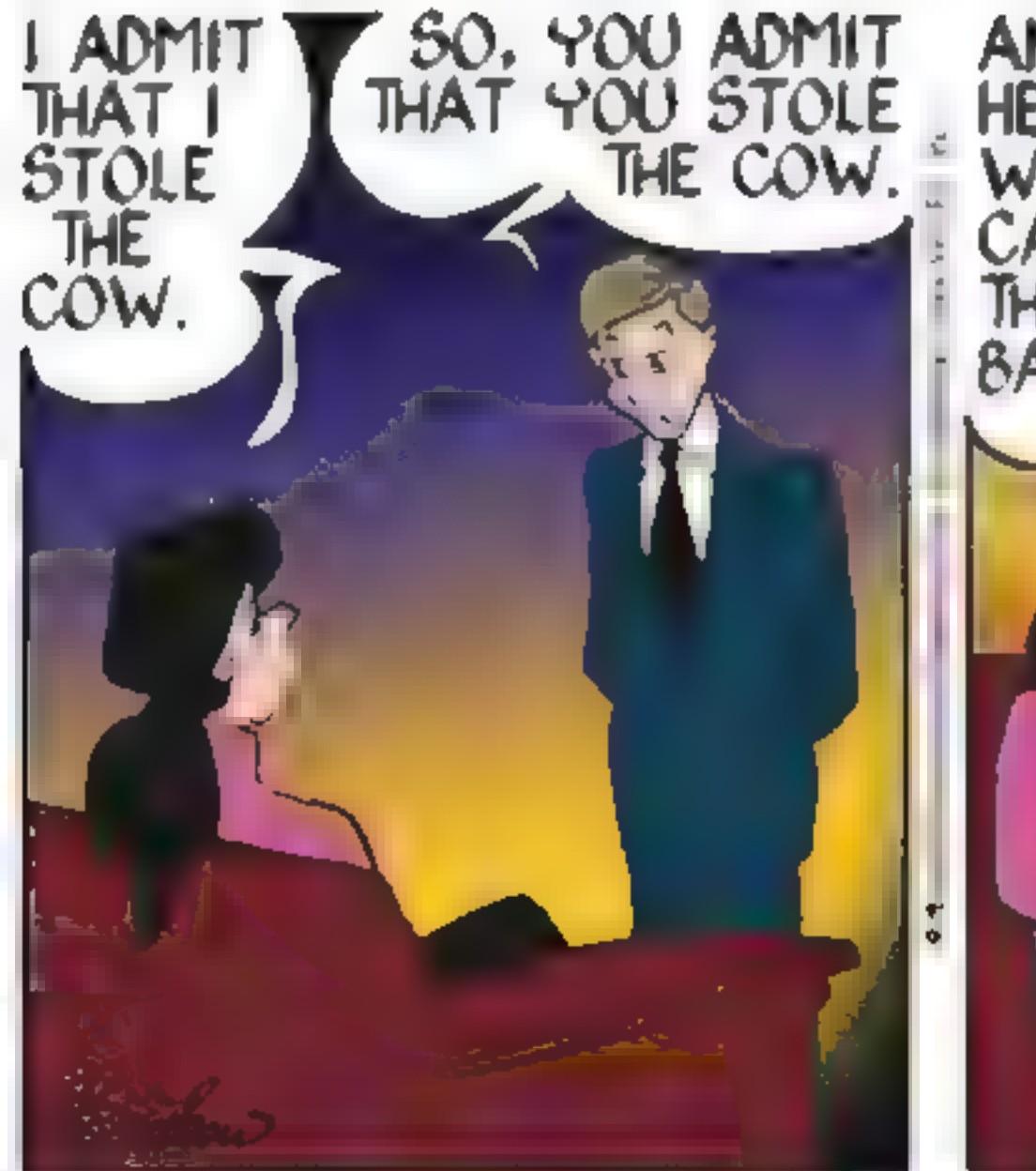




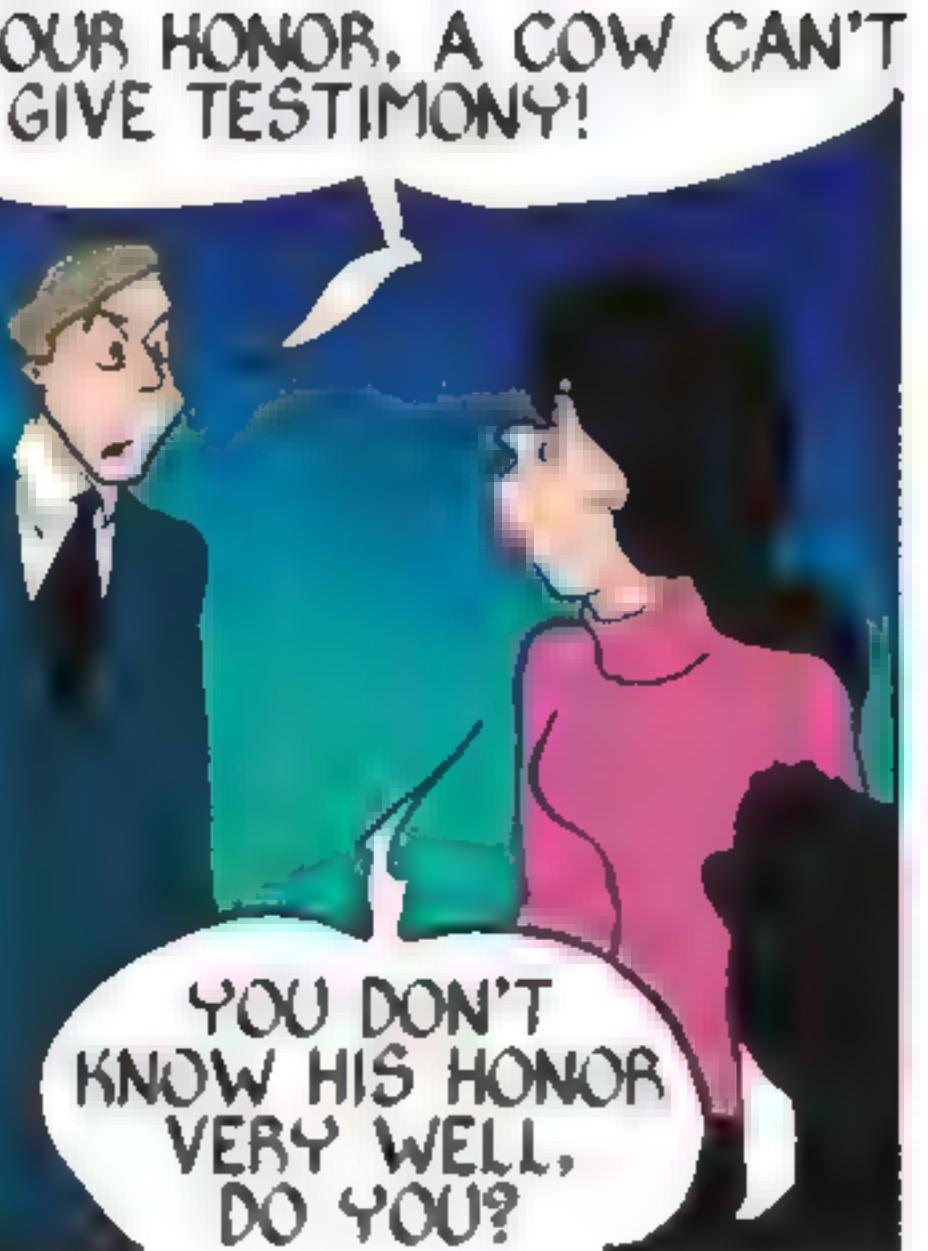


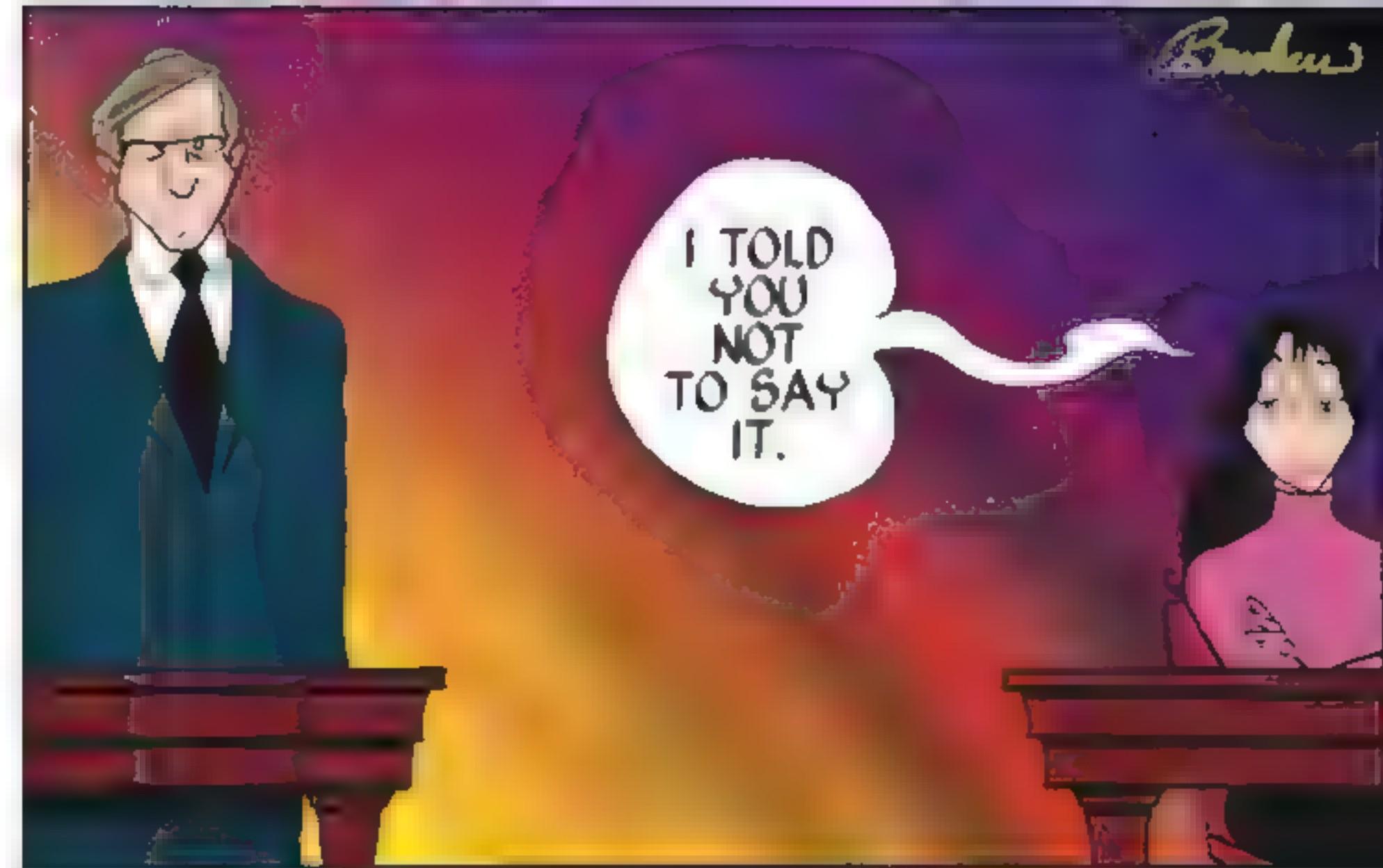
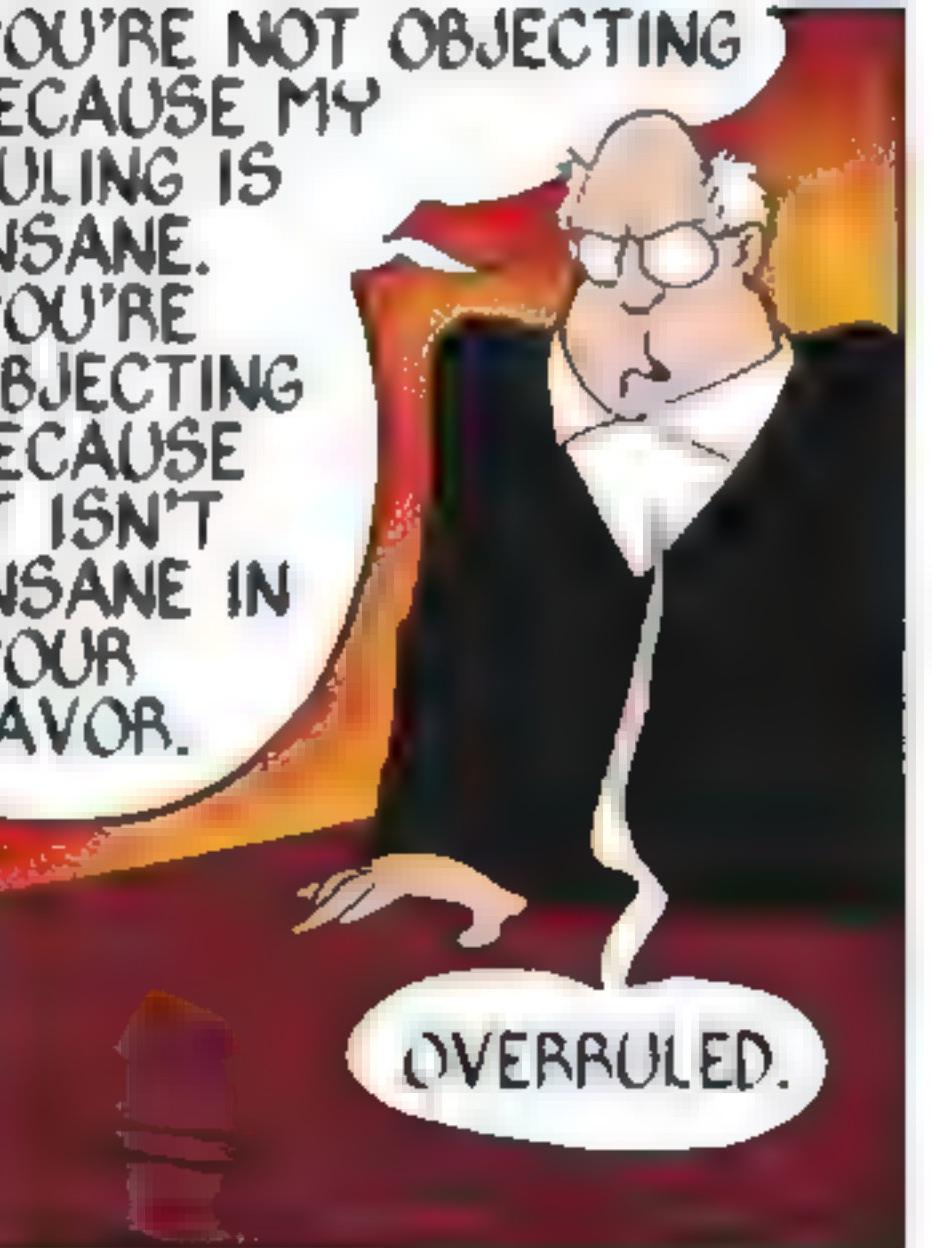
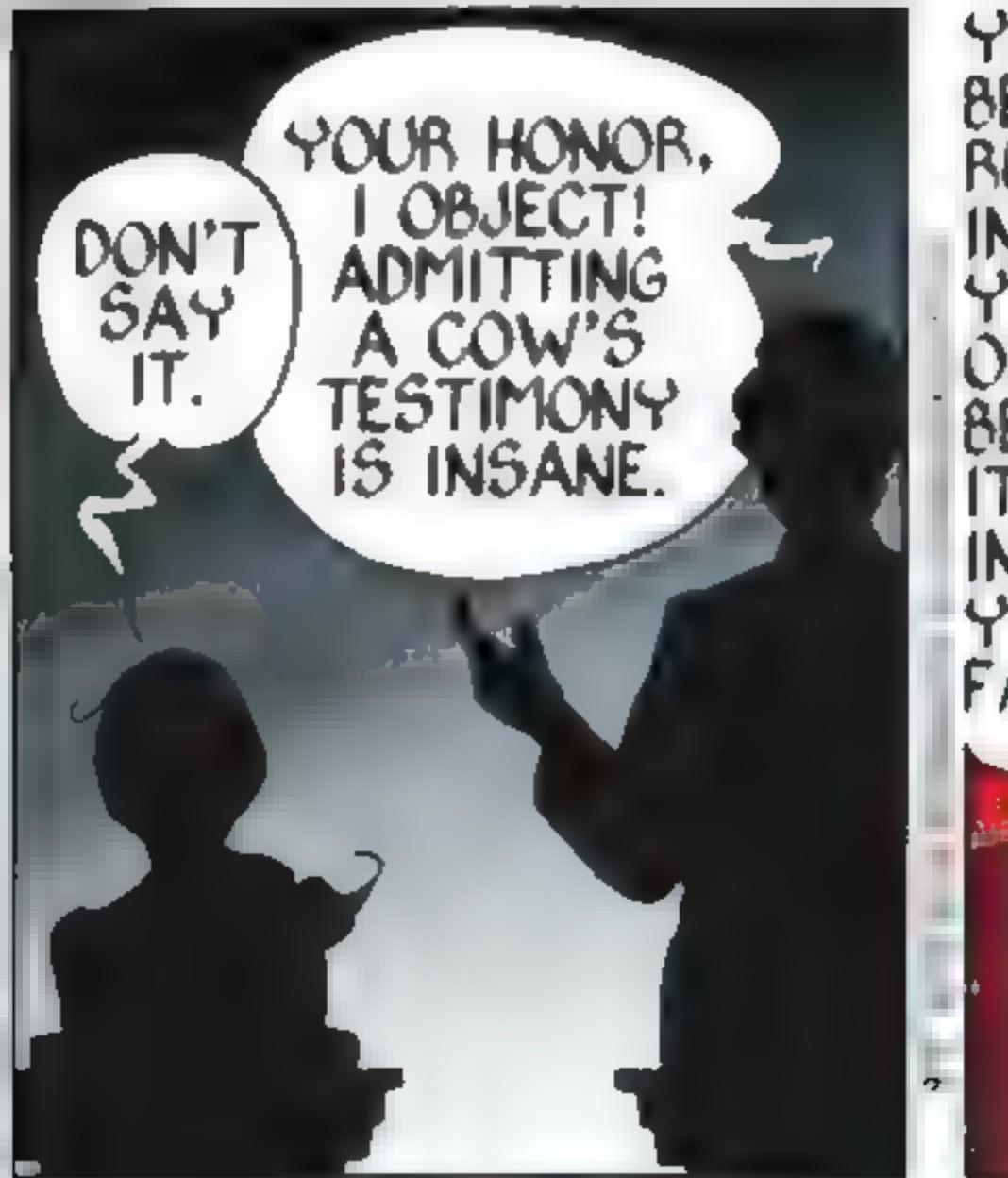
YOUR HONOR, I MOVE THAT THE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING
AND THE PERTAINING TESTIMONY BE
STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD.
IN LIGHT OF THE DAIRY FARMER'S
CORROBORATION THAT DR. SPOCKET
WAS INDEED ATTIRED IN THE
LITTLE, SKIN-TIGHT DRESS THAT
EVENING, UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES
FORCED HER TO DISROBE
AND BURY IT IN THE
PASTURE.



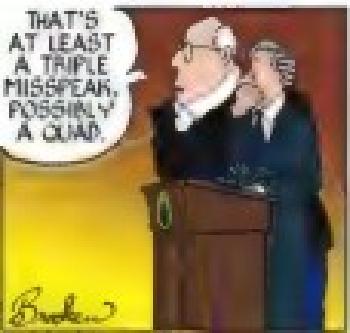
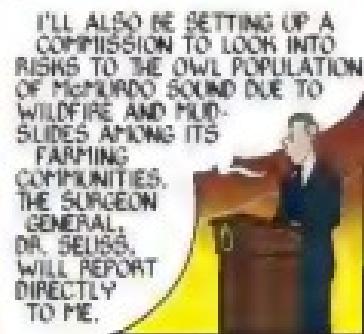




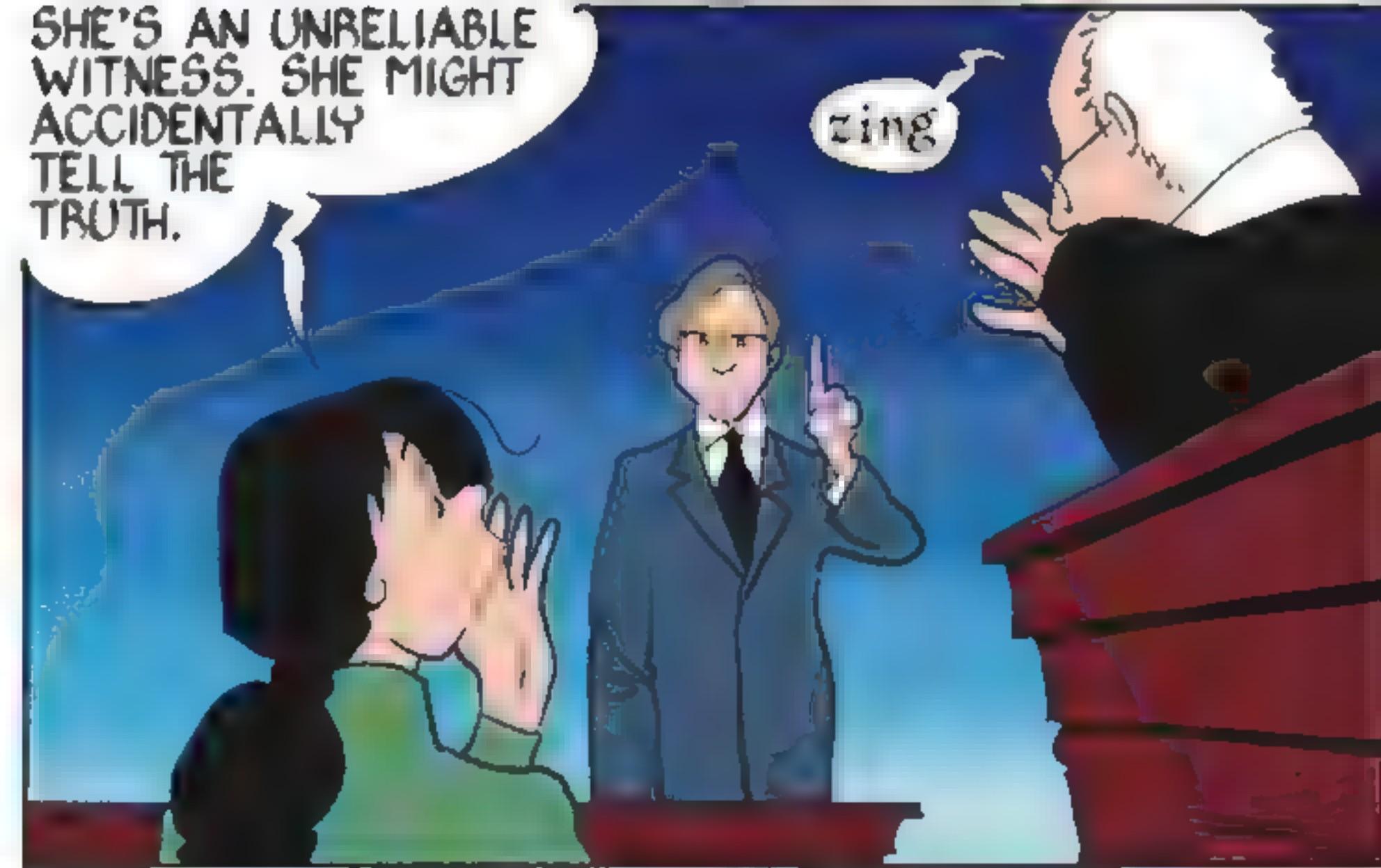


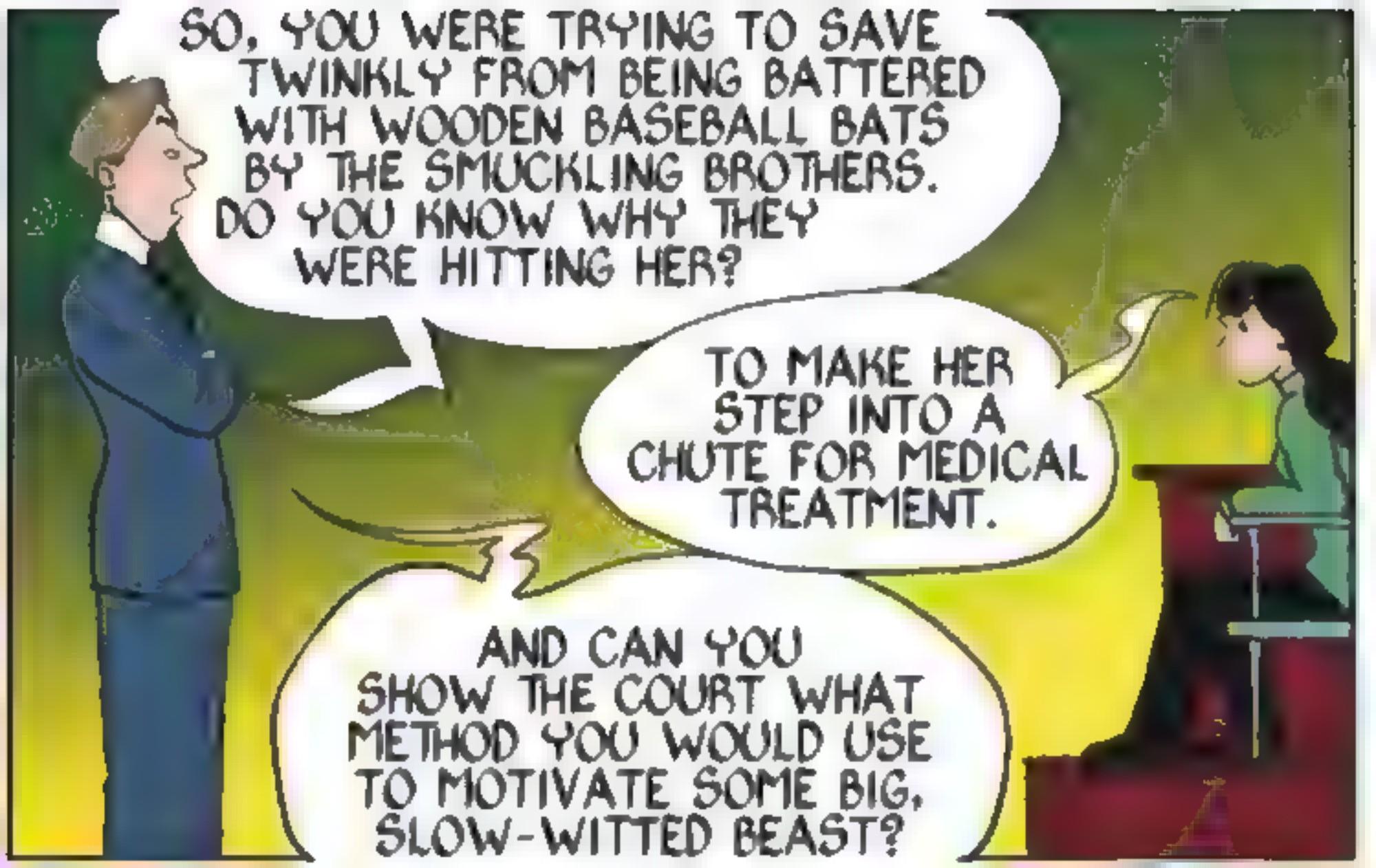


9 CHICKWEED LANE









SO, YOU WERE TRYING TO SAVE TWINKLY FROM BEING BATTERED WITH WOODEN BASEBALL BATS BY THE SMUCKLING BROTHERS. DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY WERE HITTING HER?

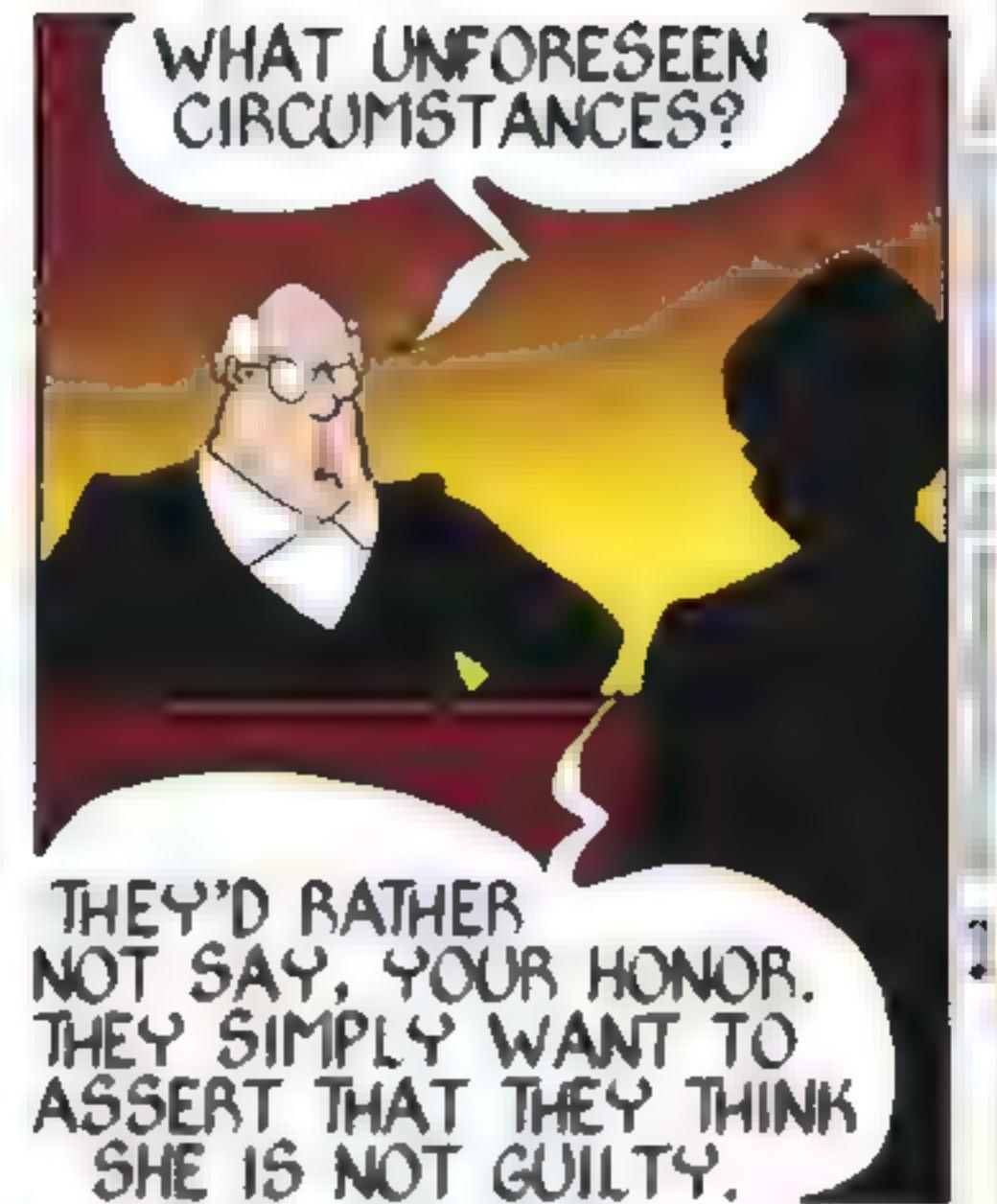
TO MAKE HER STEP INTO A CHUTE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

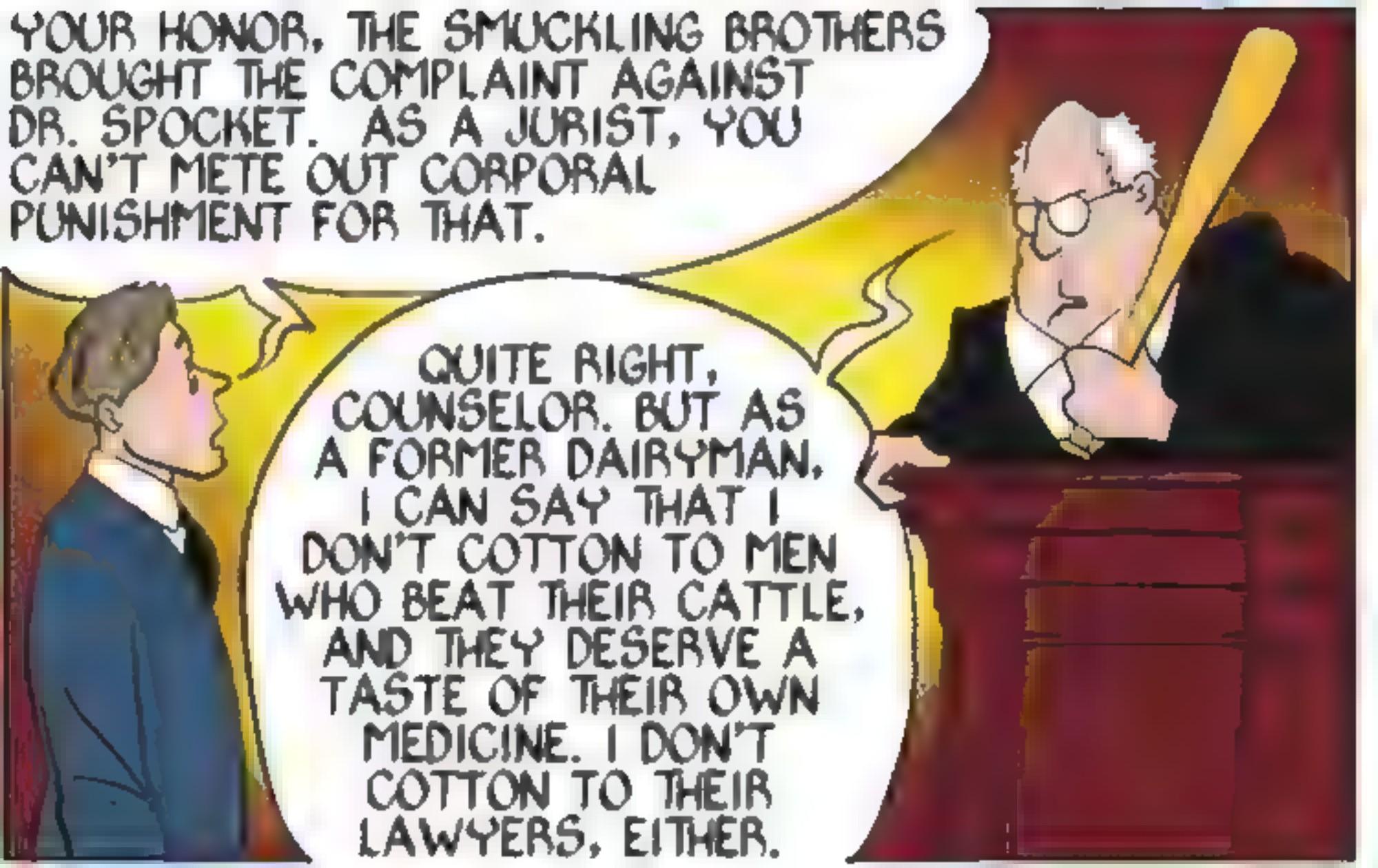
AND CAN YOU SHOW THE COURT WHAT METHOD YOU WOULD USE TO MOTIVATE SOME BIG, SLOW-WITTED BEAST?



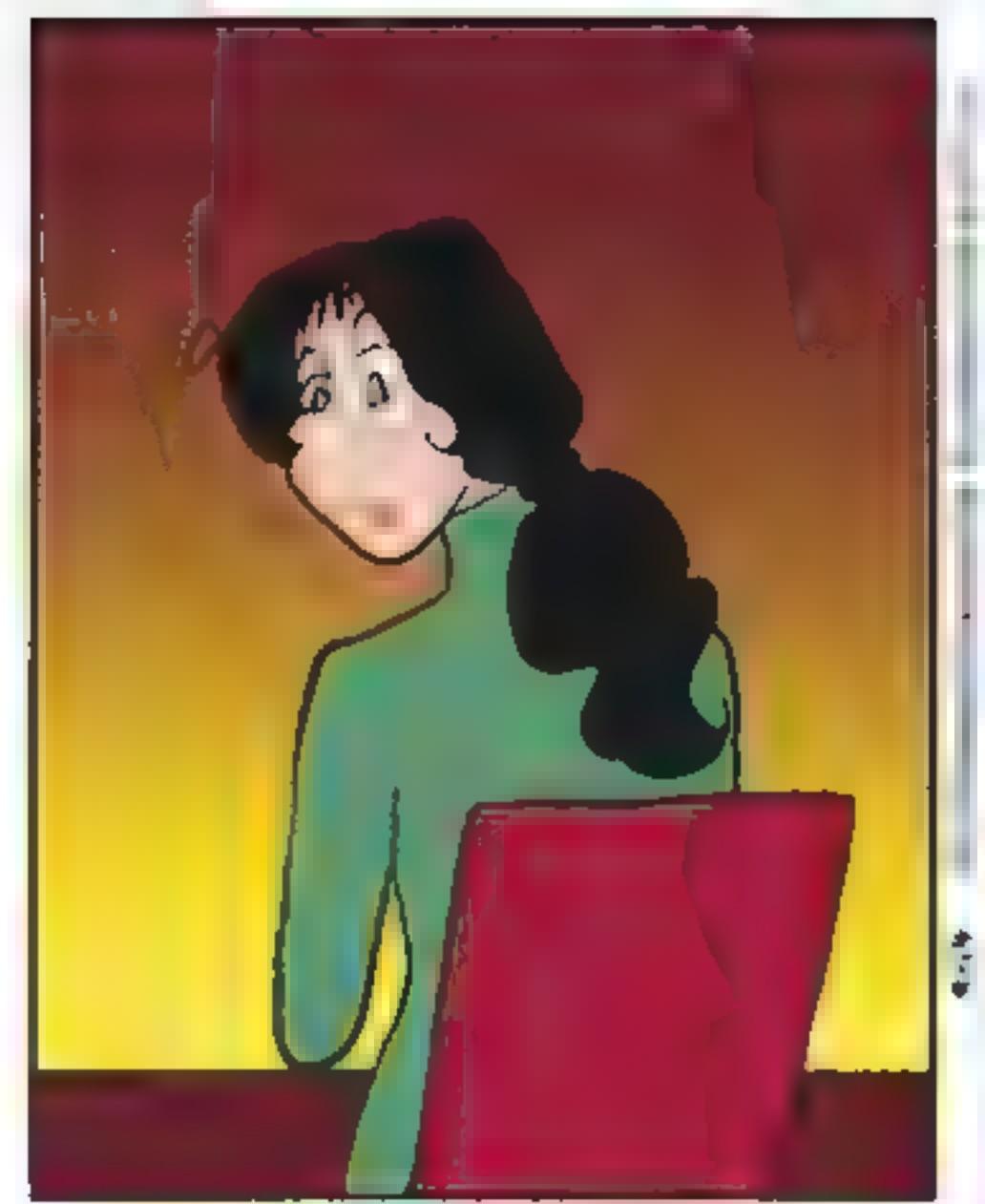
I JUST SAY, "COME ON, SWEETIE. COME ON. FOLLOW ME AND I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS ON THE HEAD."



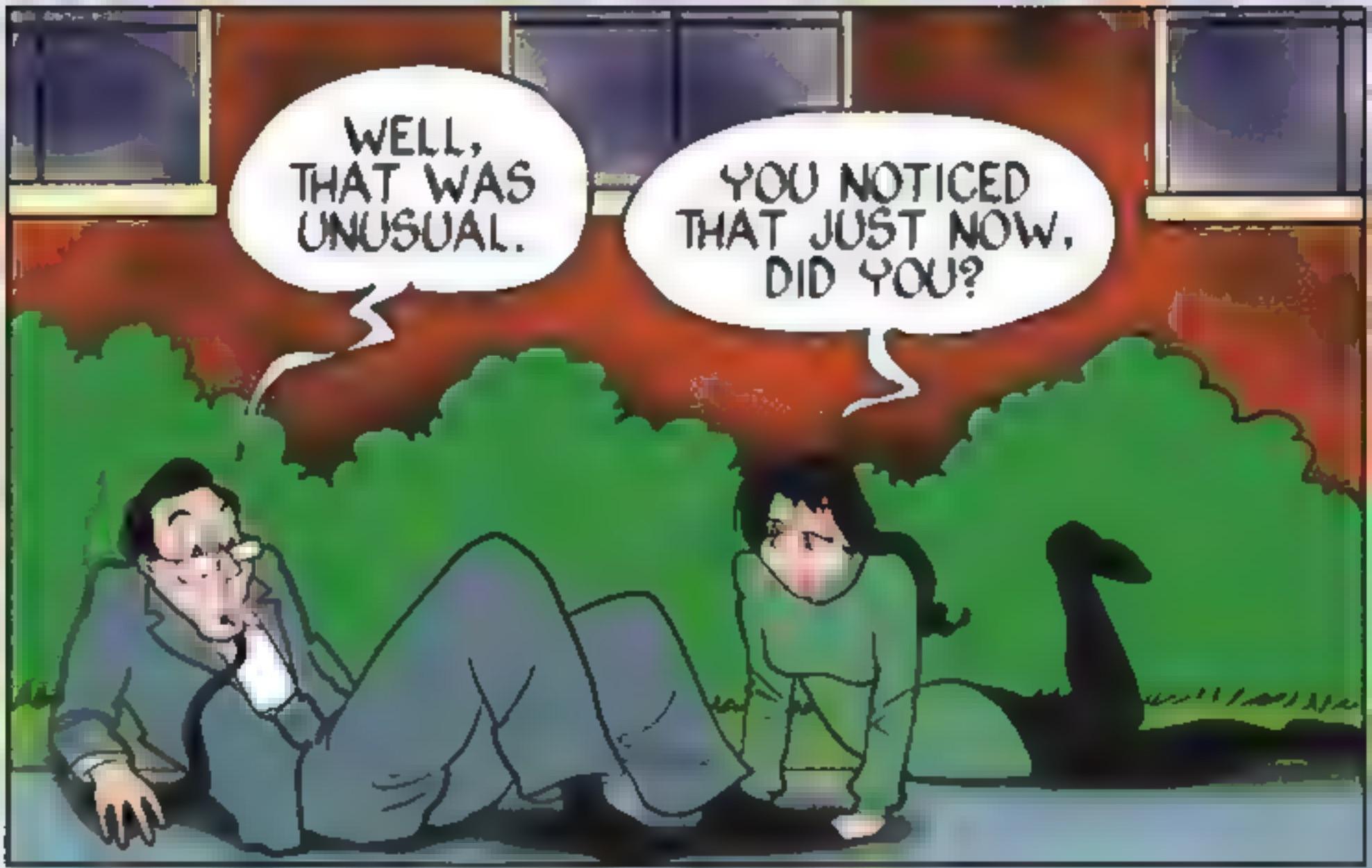




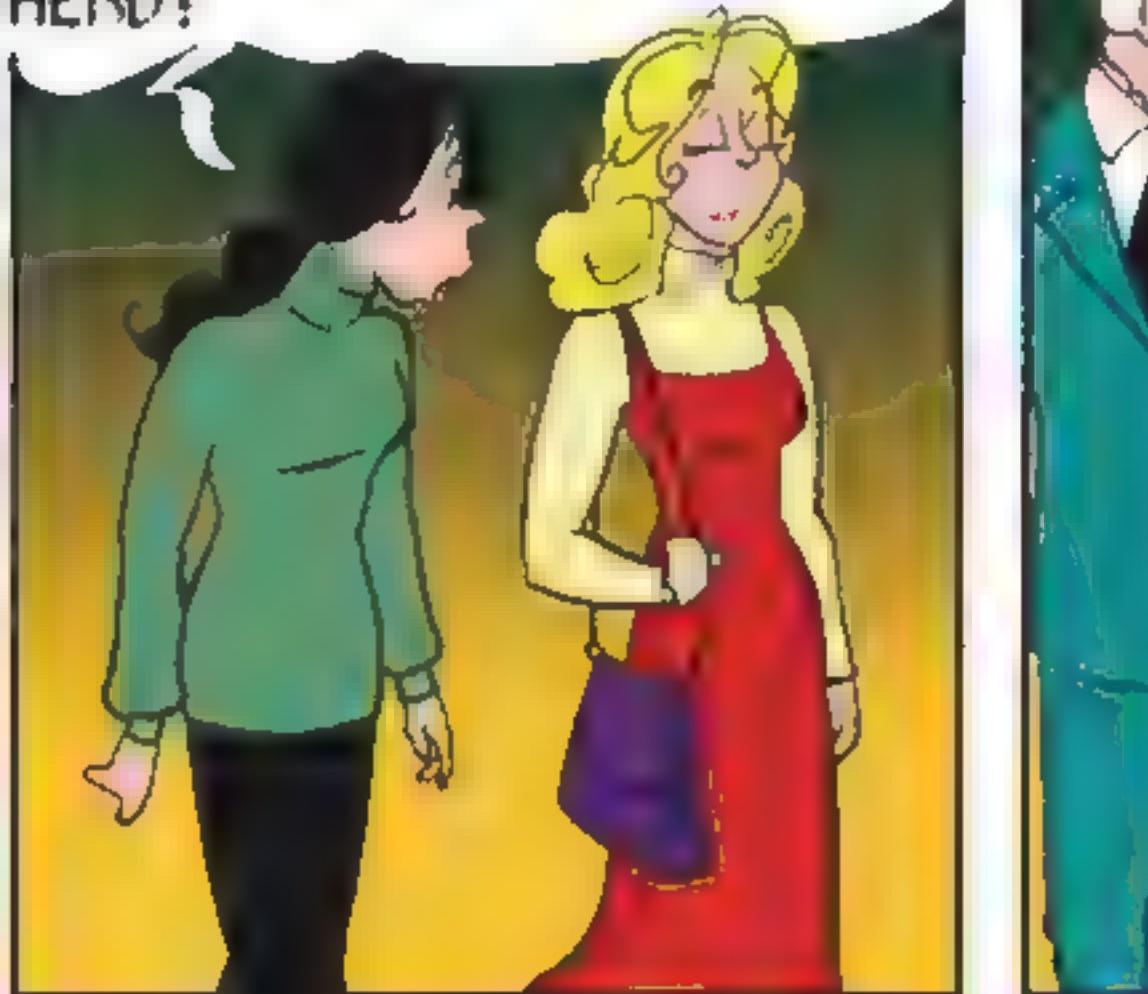
THE FACT IS, YOUR HONOR,
THE SMUCKLING BROTHERS
FEEL IT WOULD BE WISER
TO DROP THIS CASE.
ALL THEIR REMAINING
CATTLE ARE DISAPPEARING
IN THE NIGHT,
EVIDENTLY
ABDUCTED BY
TOWNS-
PEOPLE IN
RETRIBUTION
FOR TAKING
DR. SPOCKET
TO COURT.



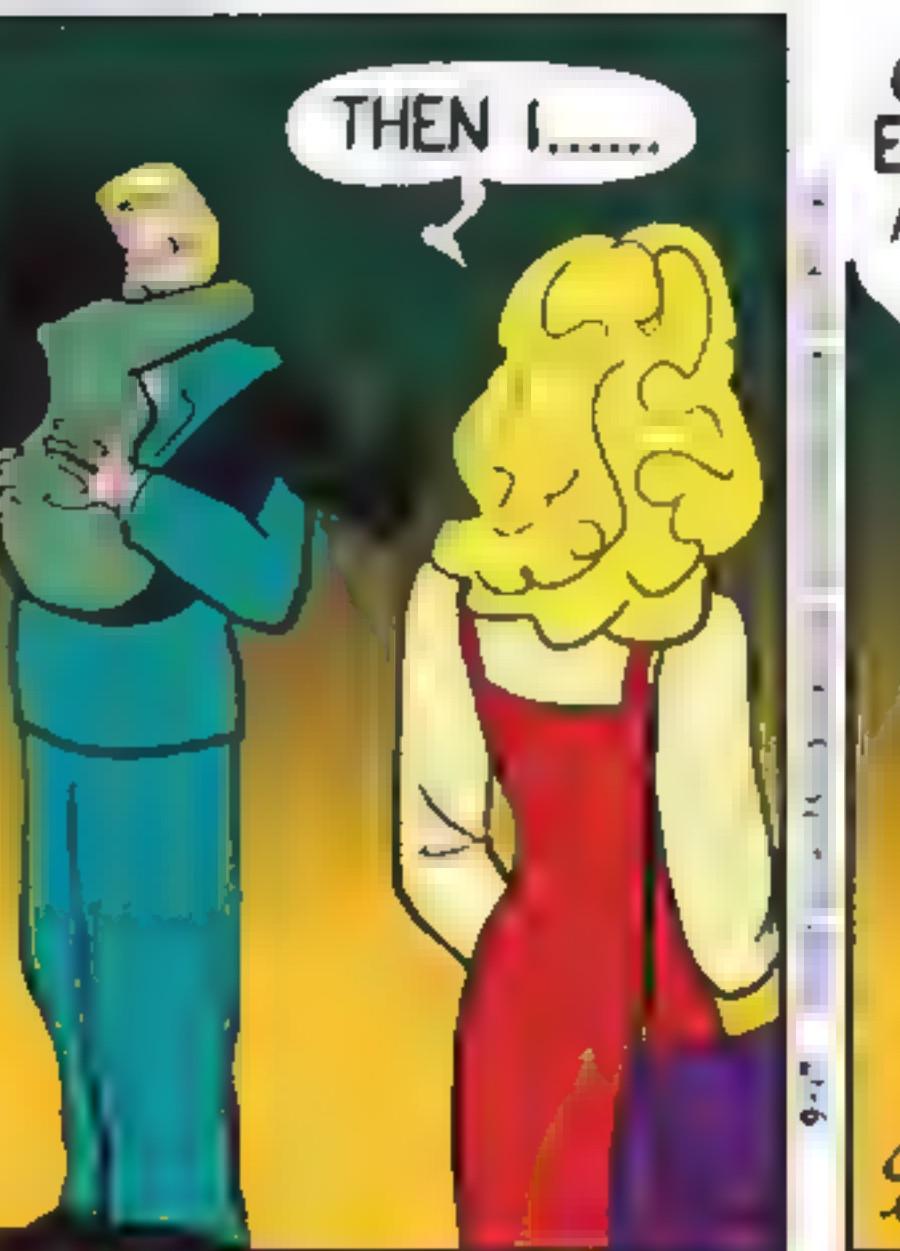
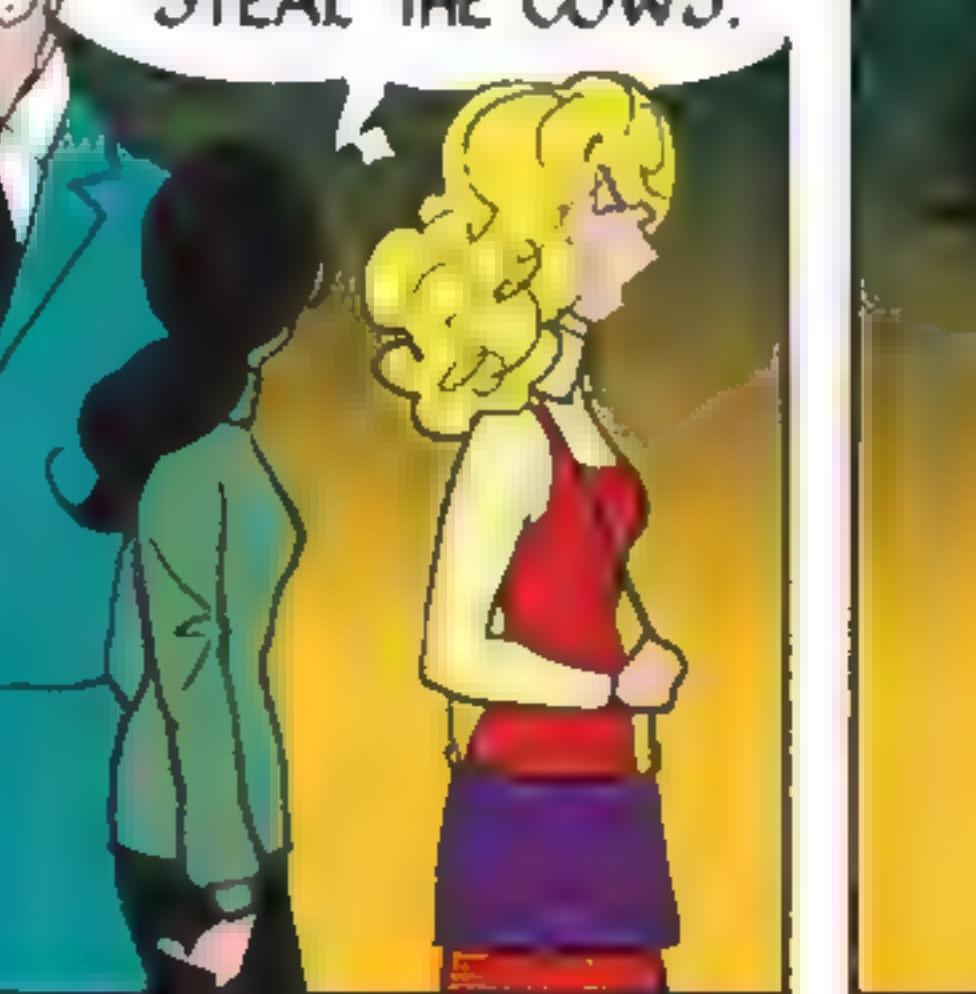


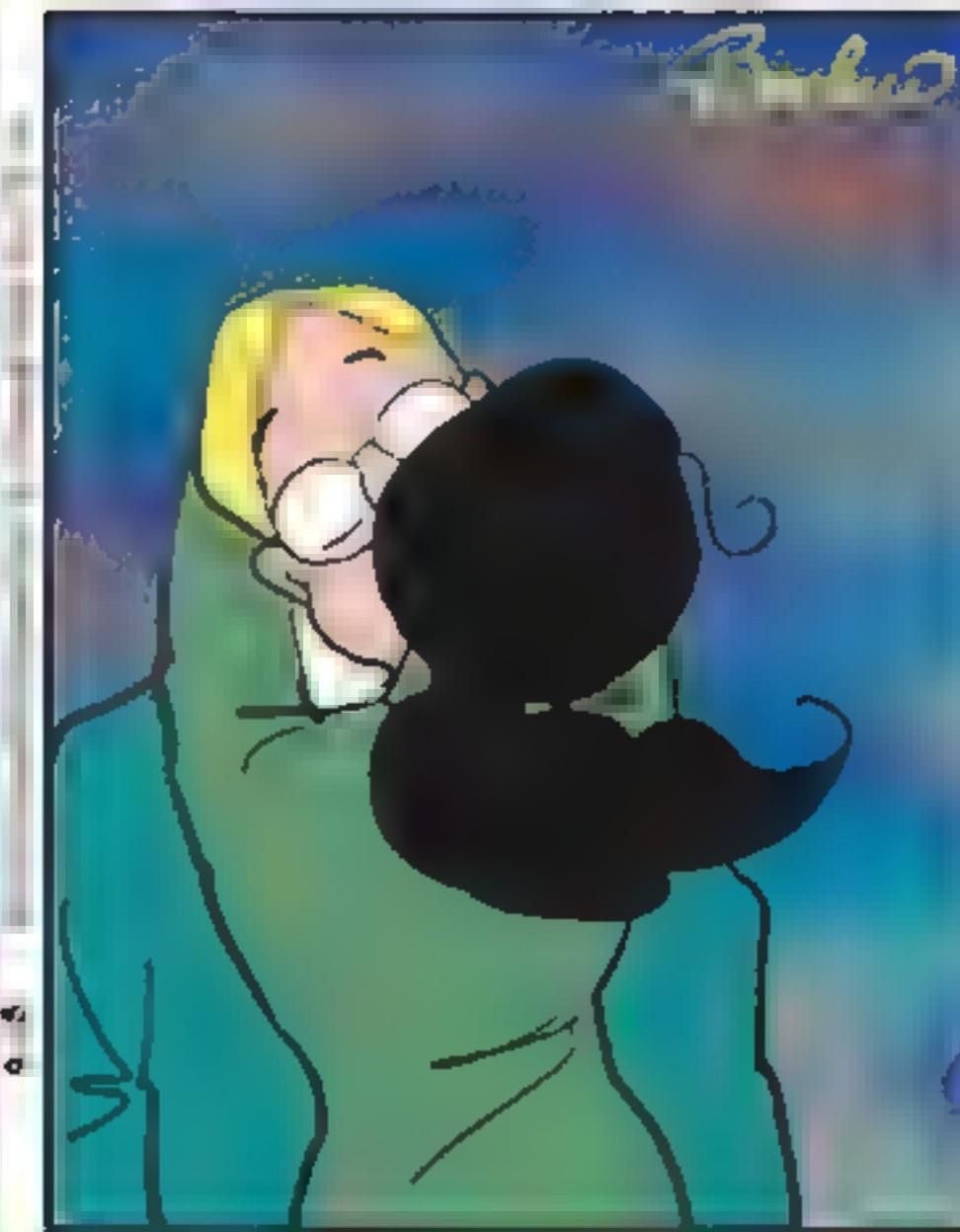
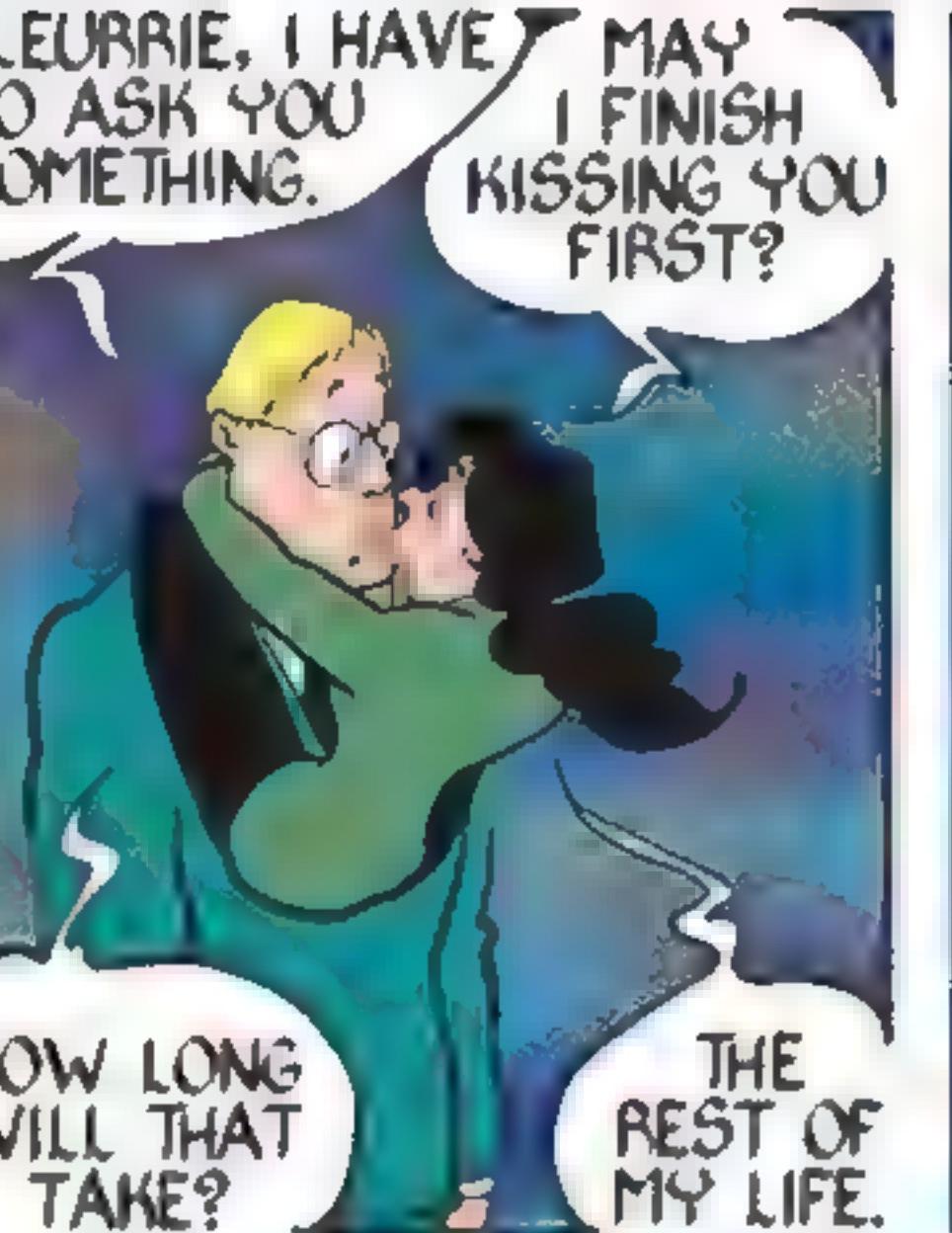


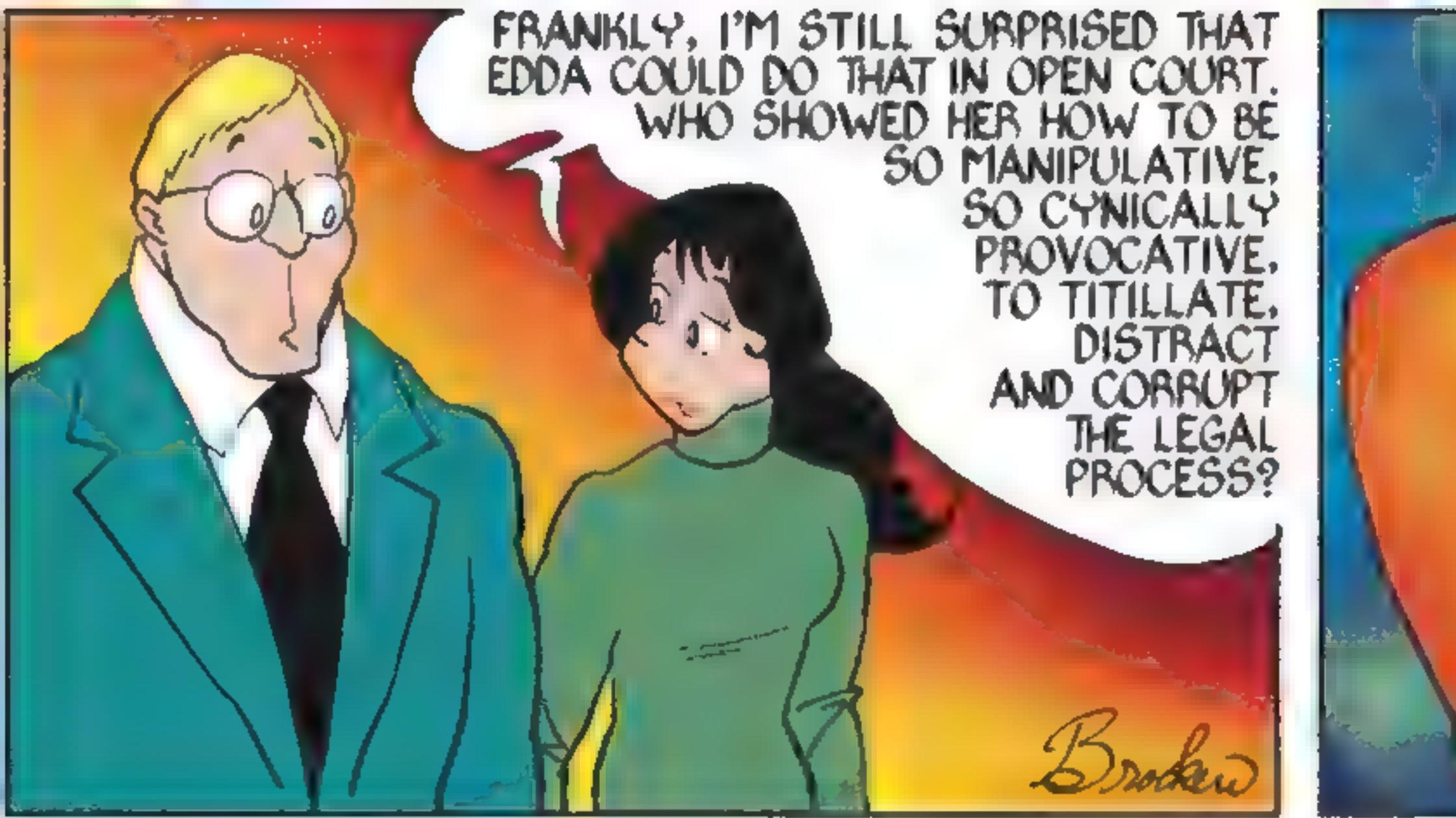
YOU ARRANGED FOR EVERY-BODY IN TOWN TO RUSTLE THE REST OF THE SMUCKLING HERD?



AT A TOWN MEETING, I SAID,
"I'LL SHOW THEM MY LEGS, YOU FOLKS.
STEAL THE COWS."

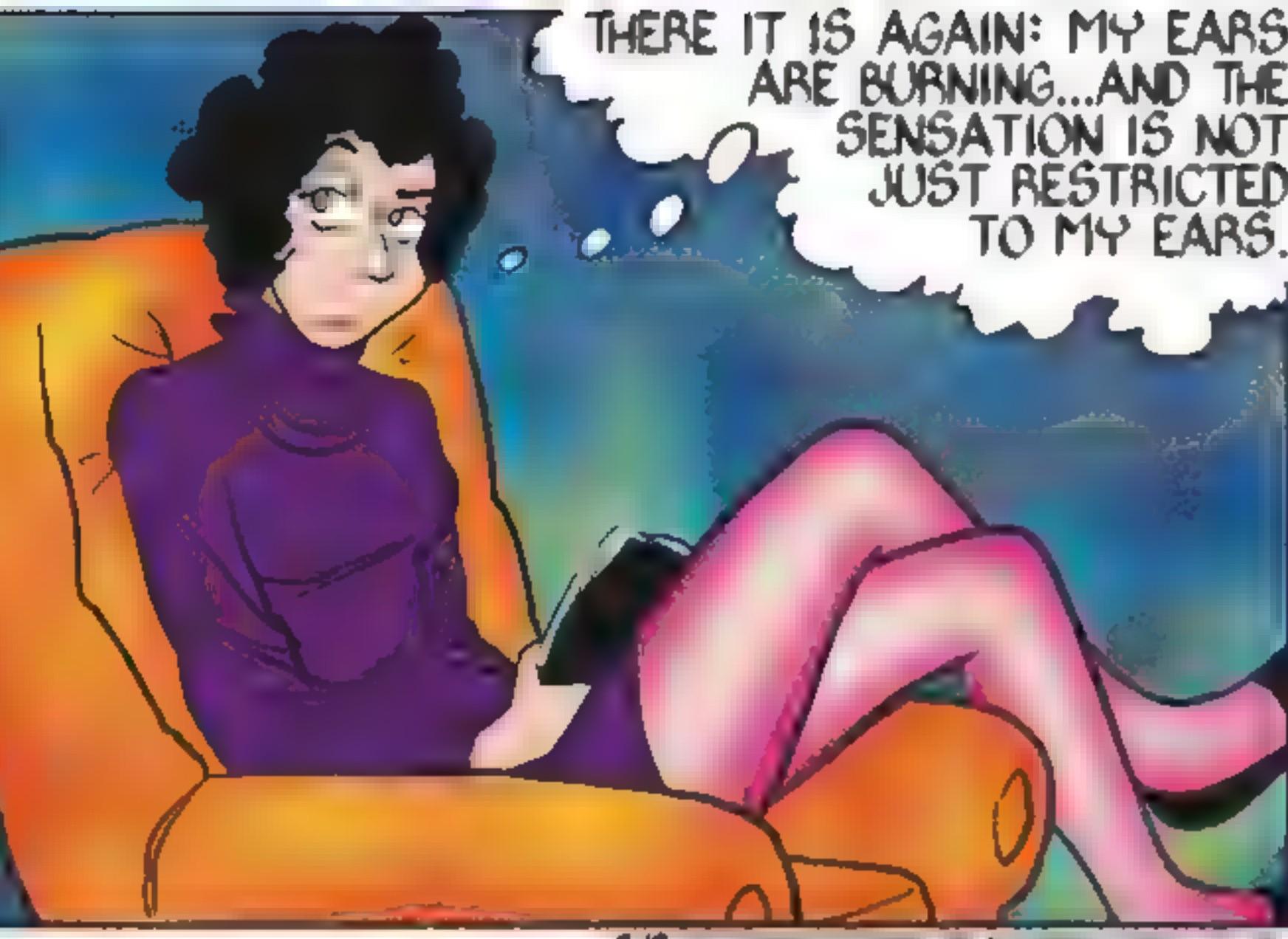




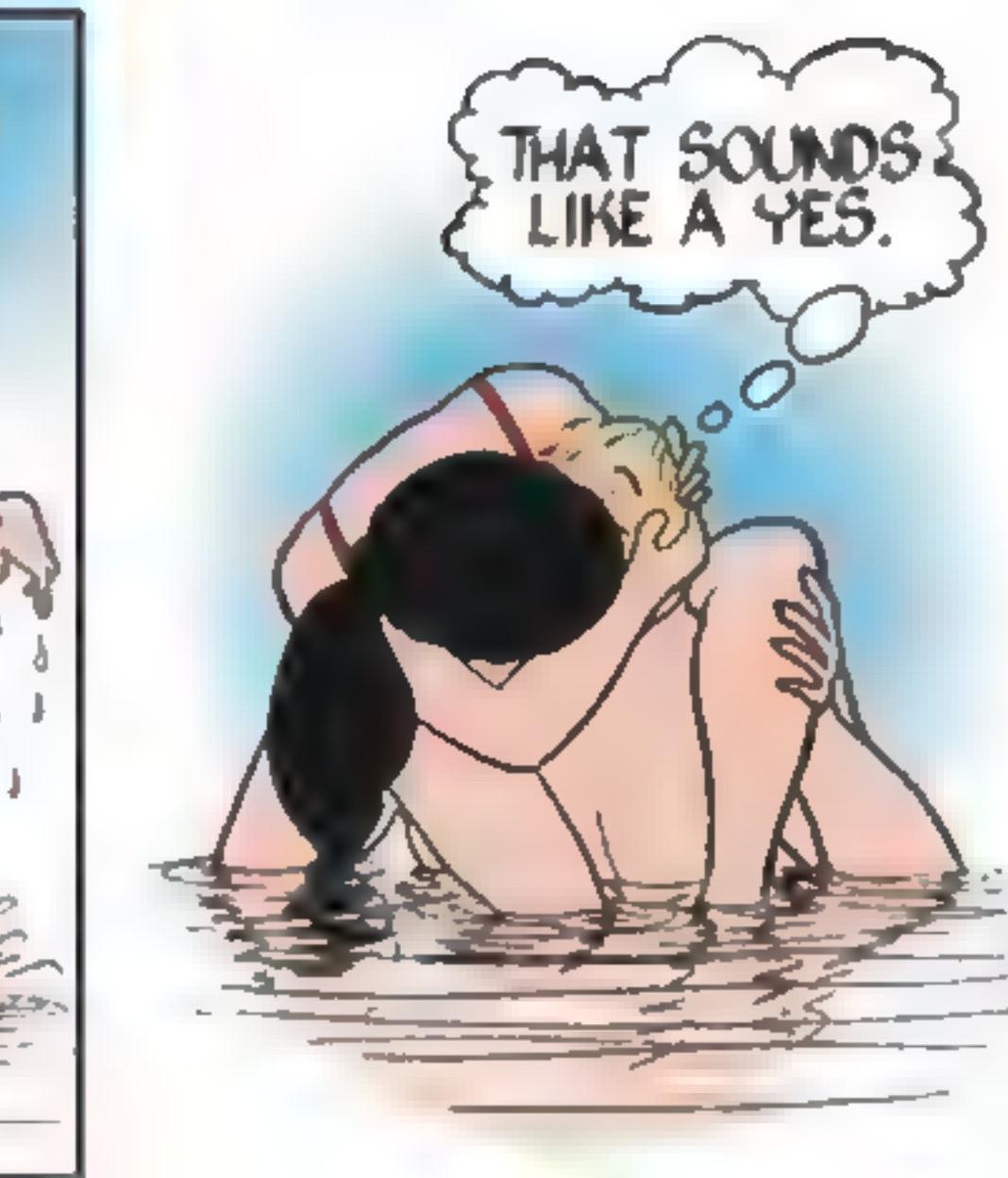


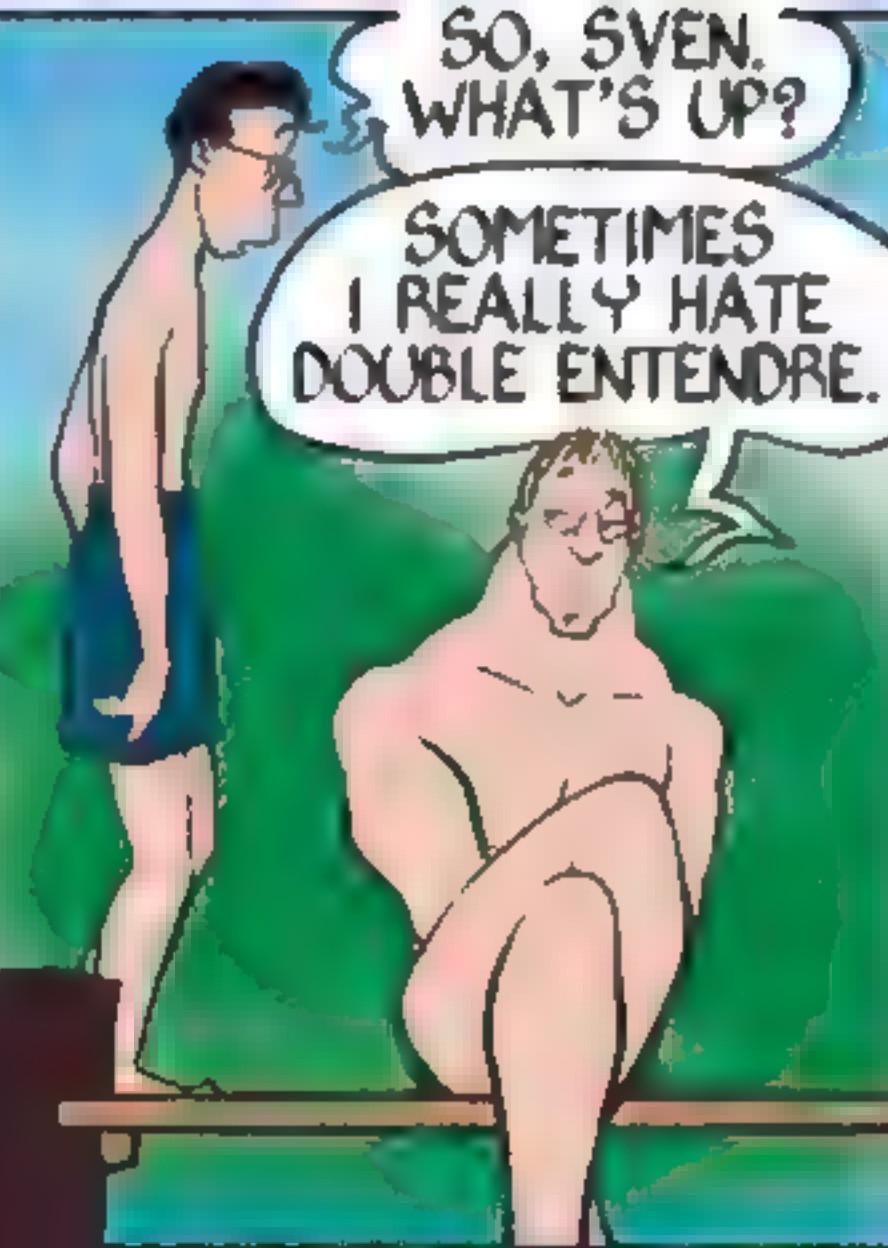
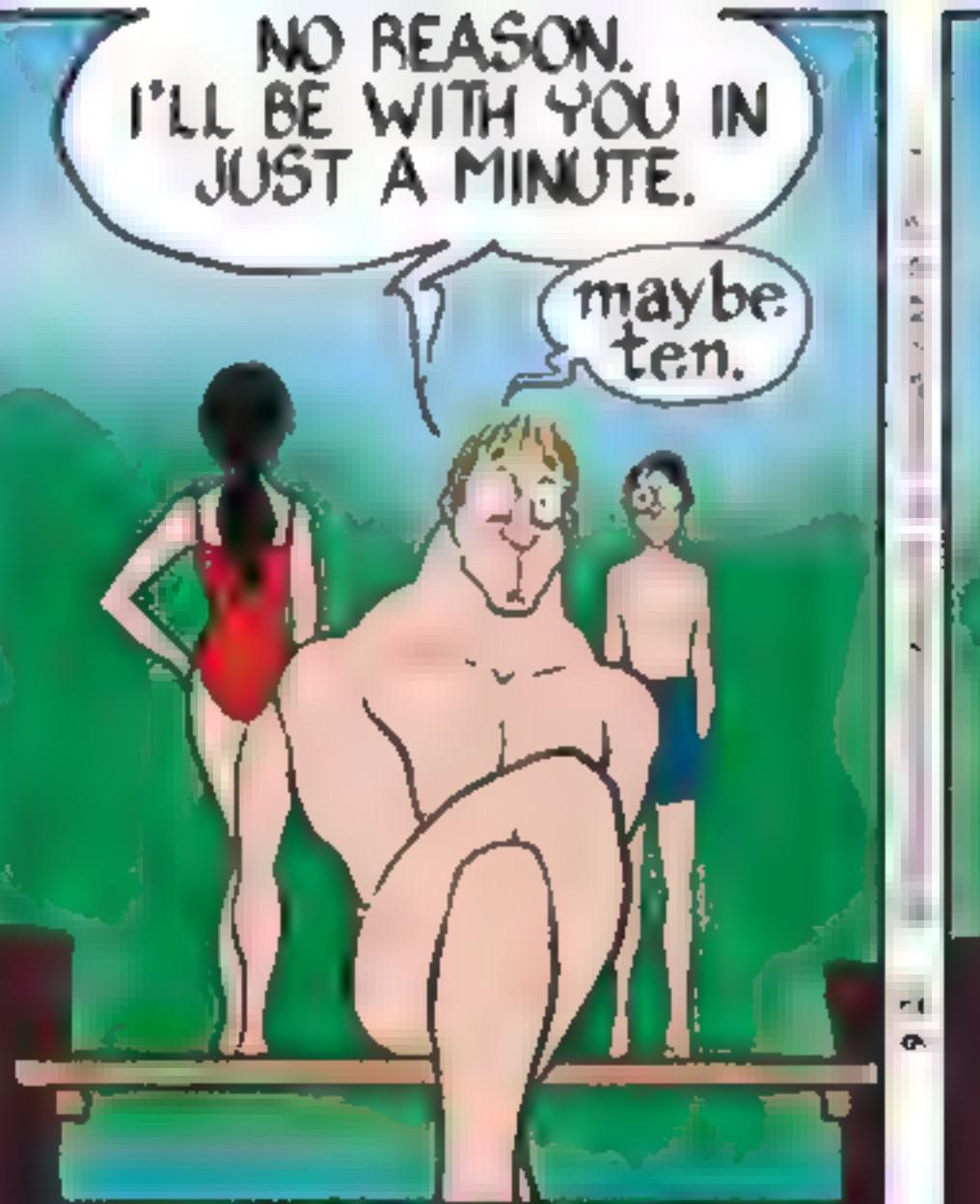
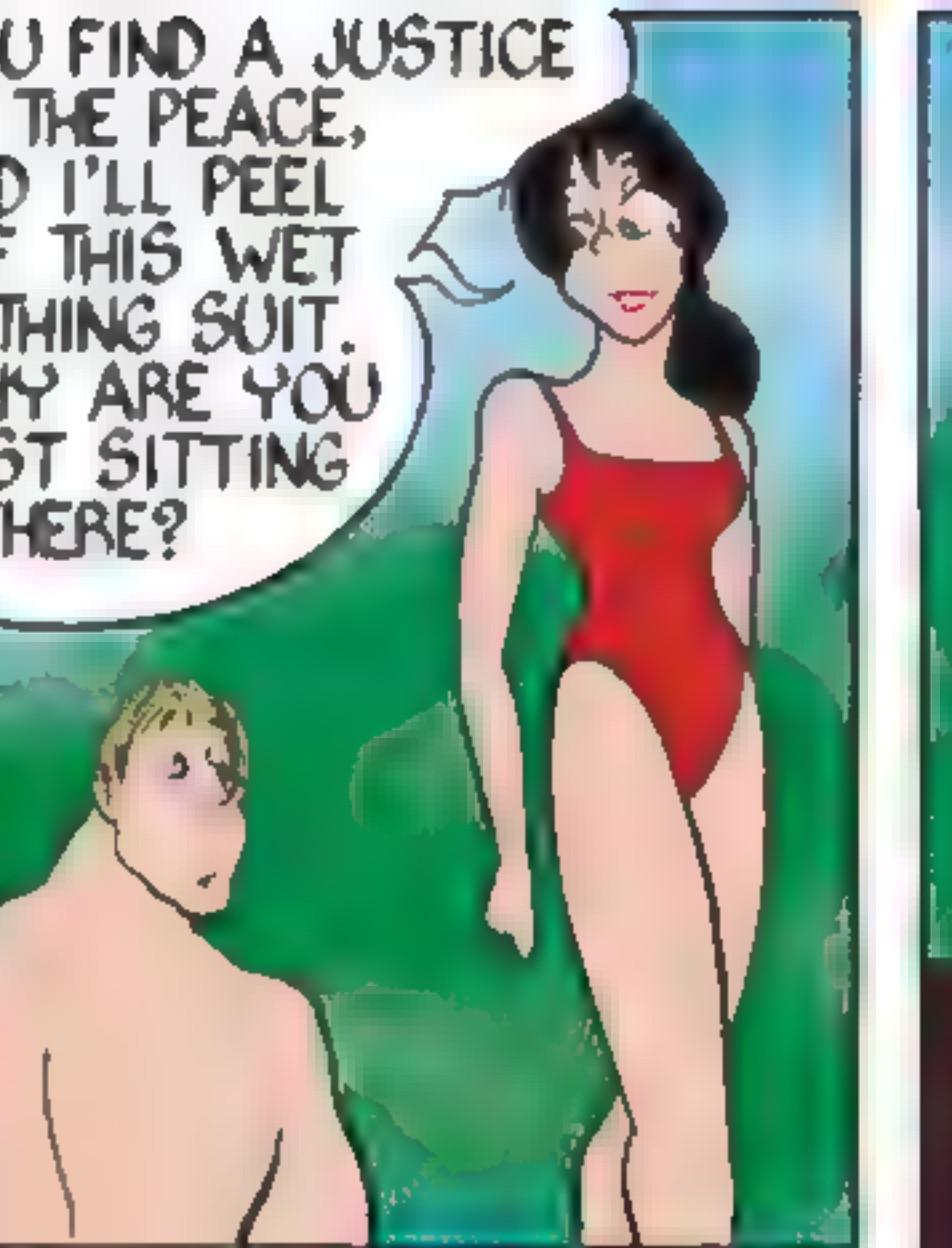
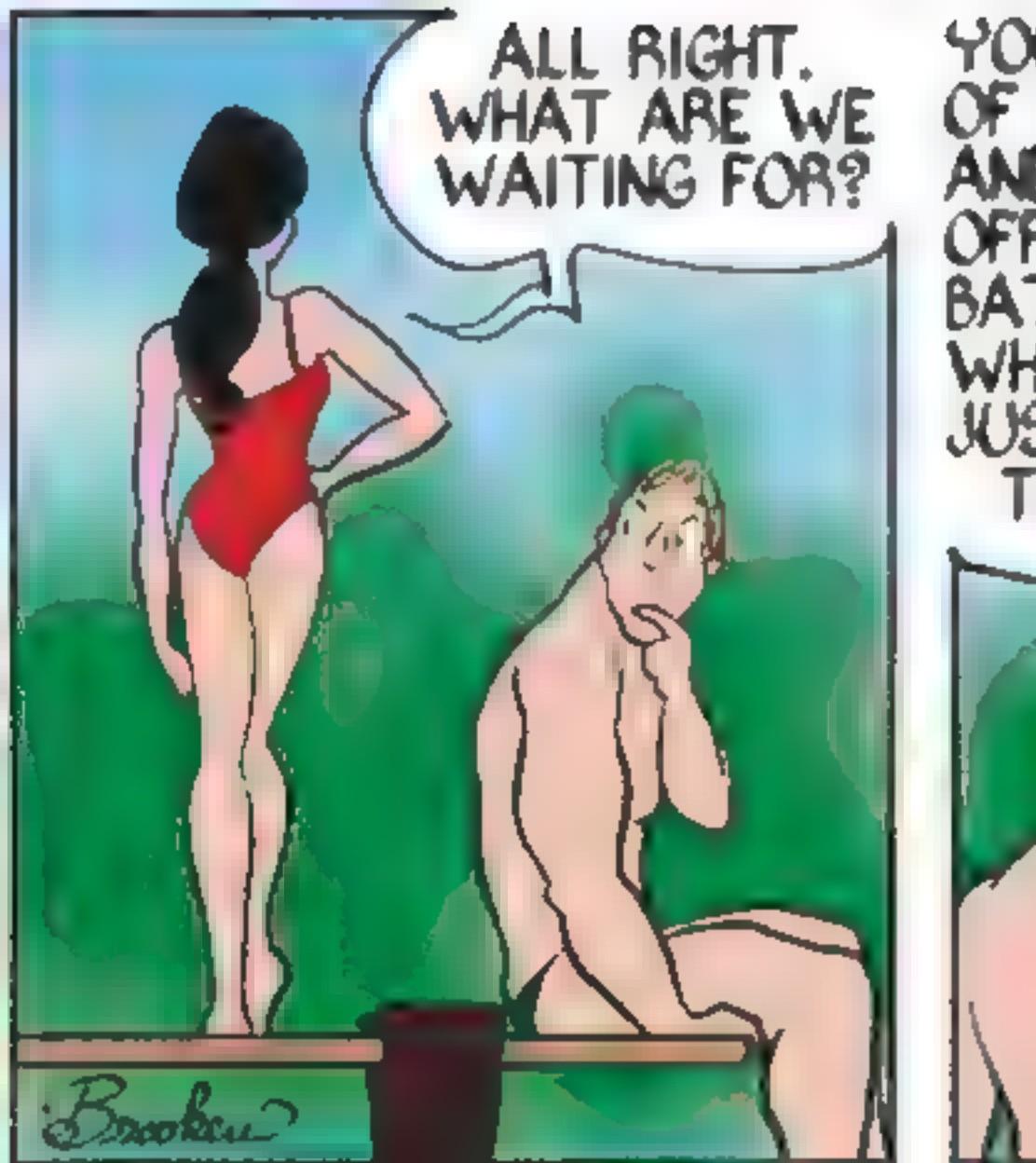
FRANKLY, I'M STILL SURPRISED THAT
EDDA COULD DO THAT IN OPEN COURT.
WHO SHOWED HER HOW TO BE
SO MANIPULATIVE,
SO CYNICALLY
PROVOCATIVE,
TO TITILLATE,
DISTRACT
AND CORRUPT
THE LEGAL
PROCESS?

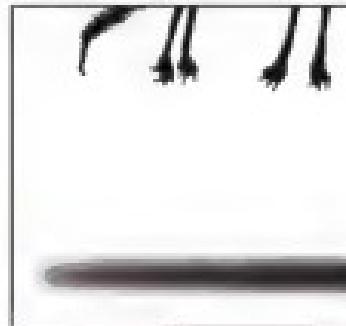
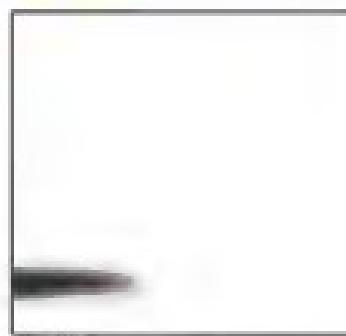
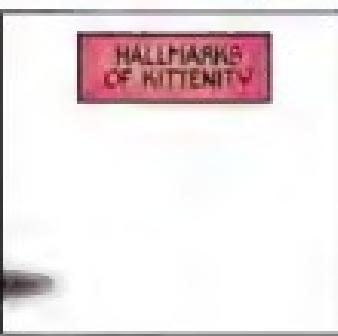
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THERE IT IS AGAIN: MY EARS
ARE BURNING...AND THE
SENSATION IS NOT
JUST RESTRICTED
TO MY EARS.

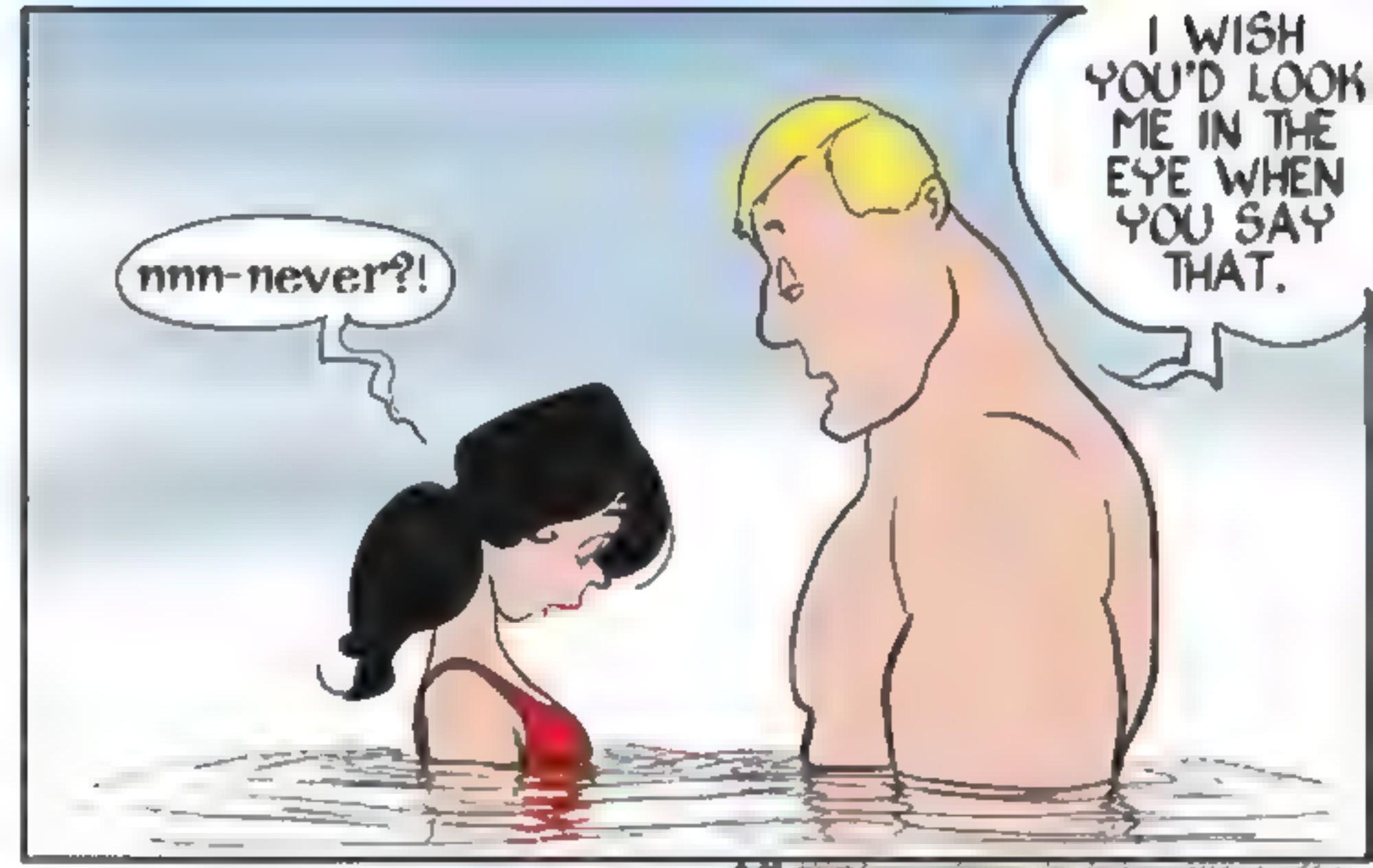
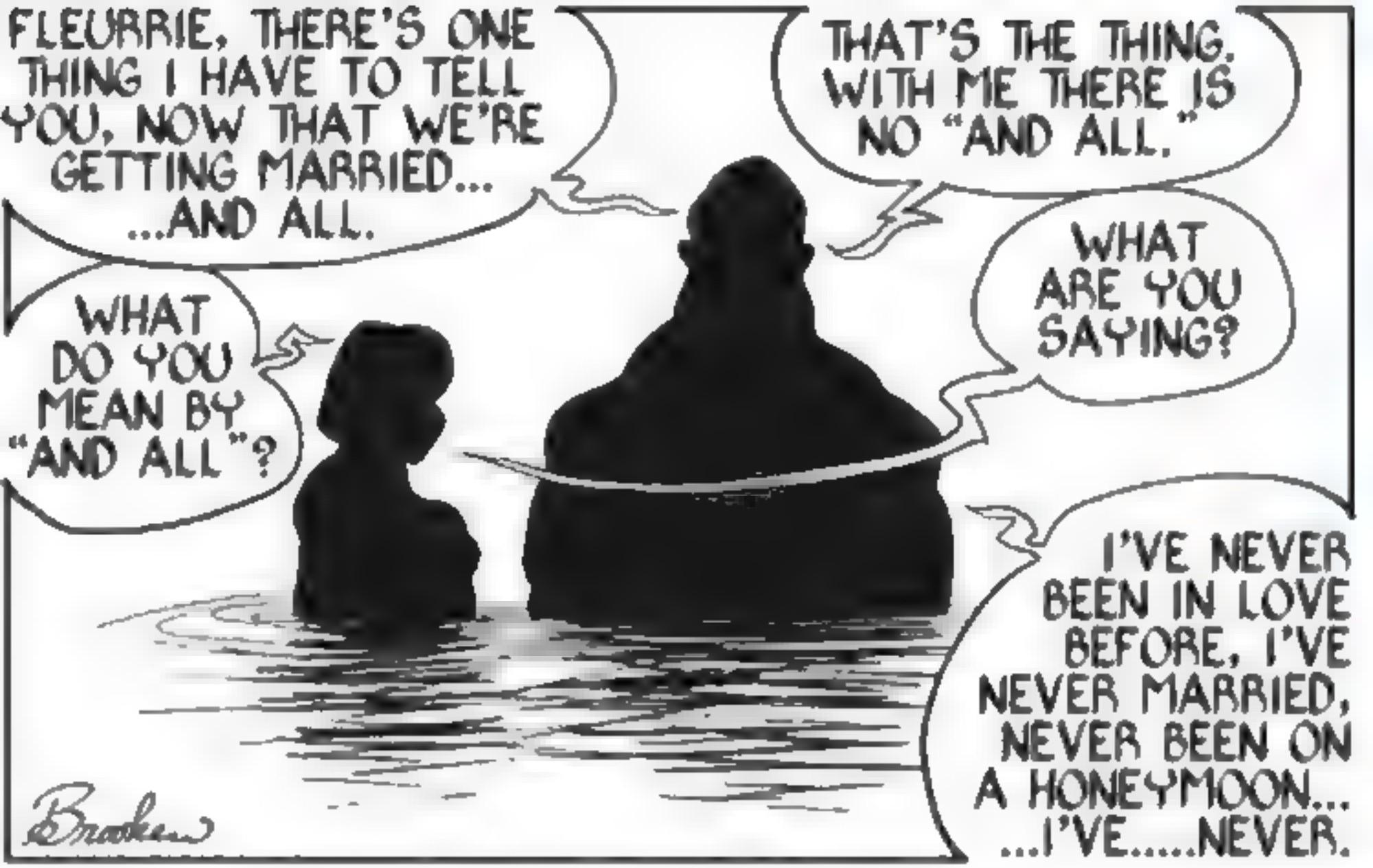




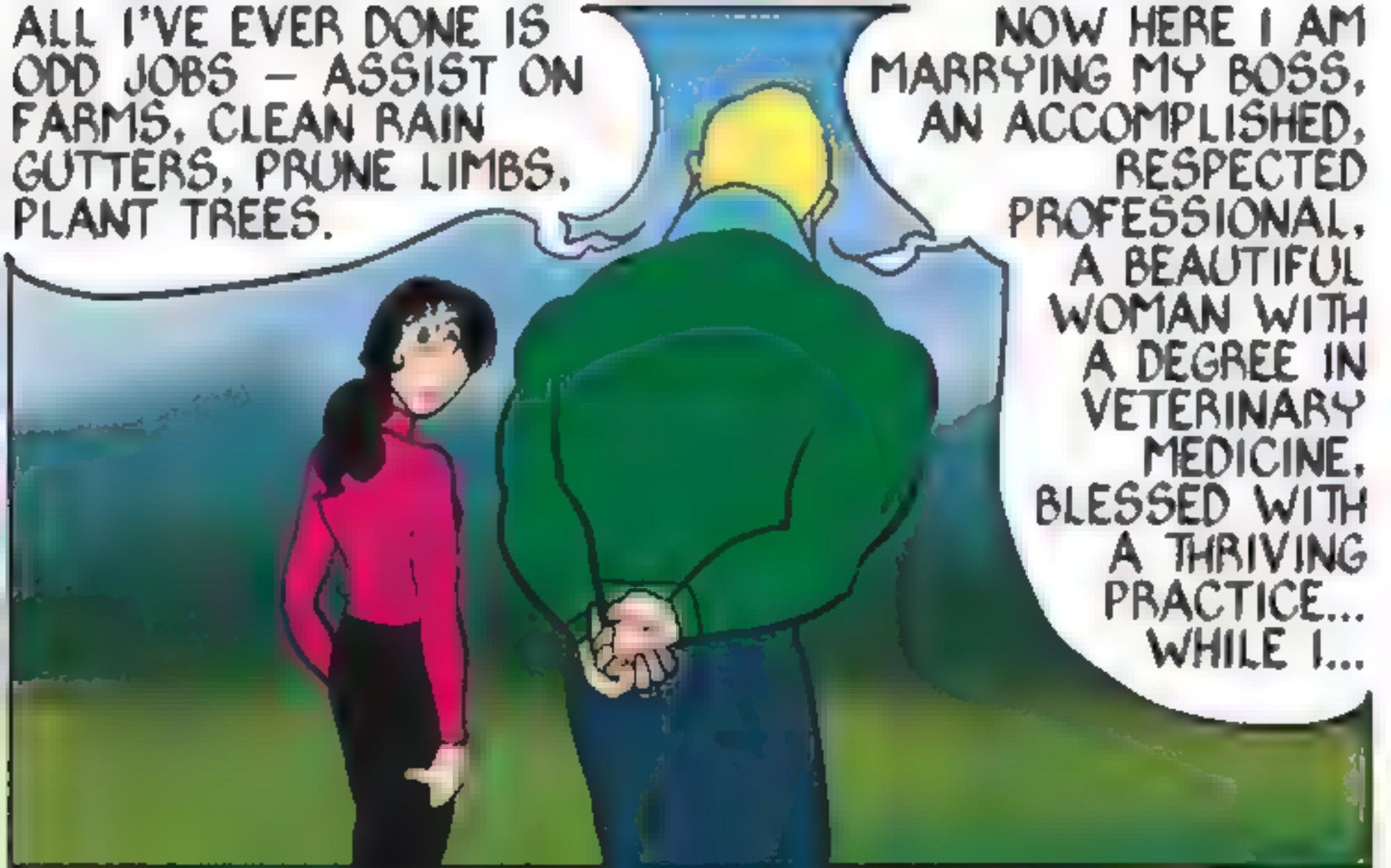


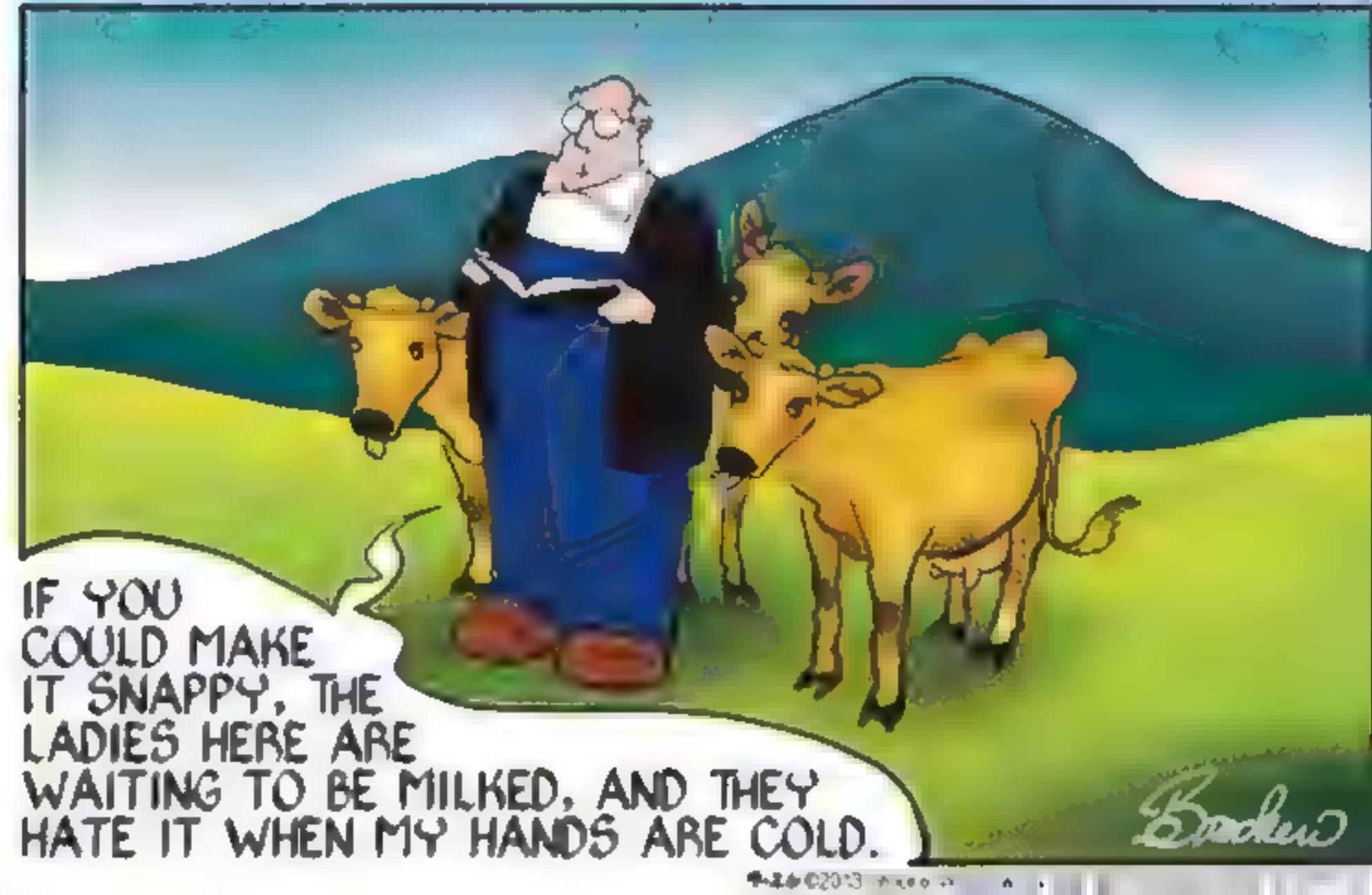
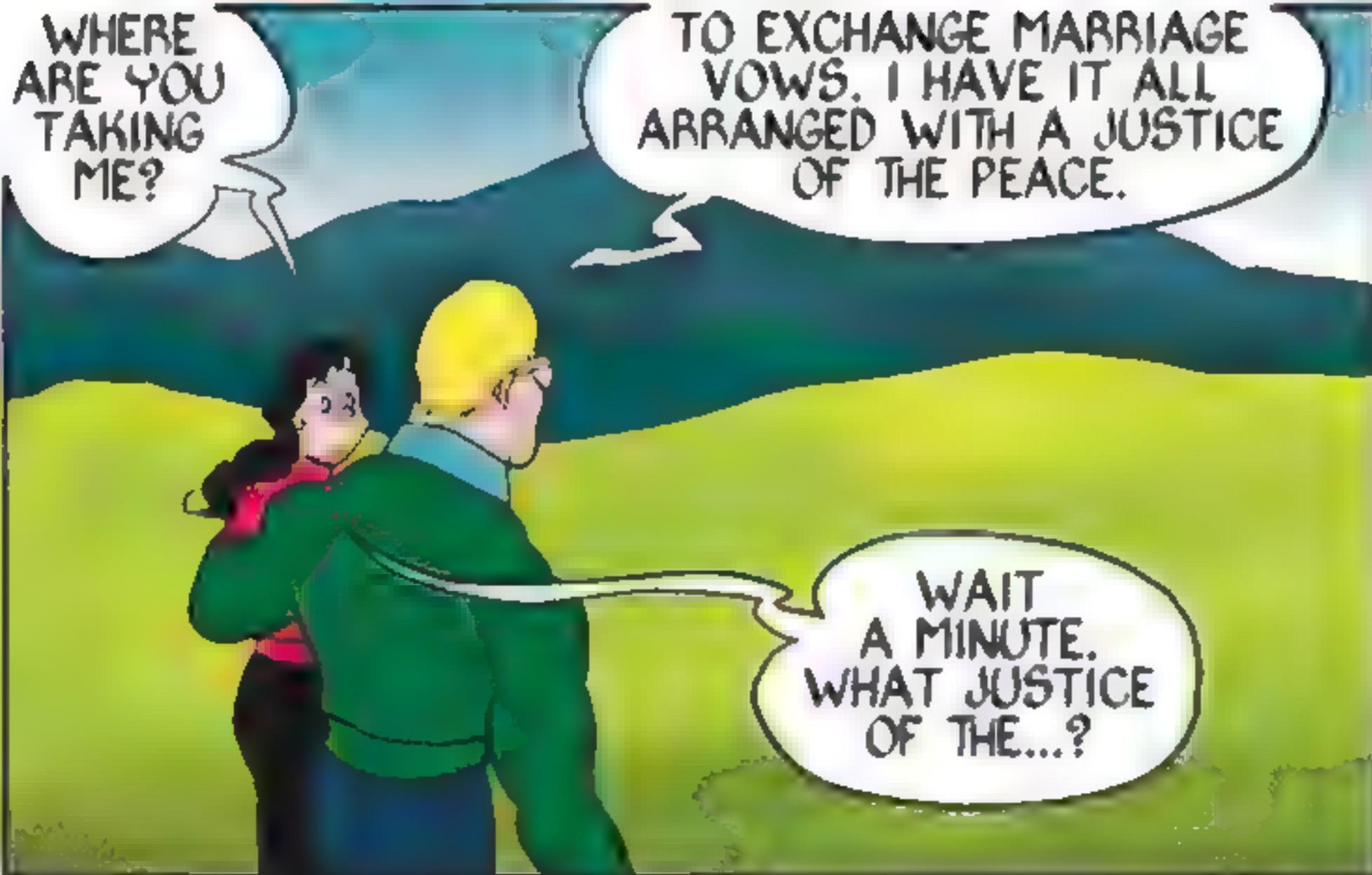
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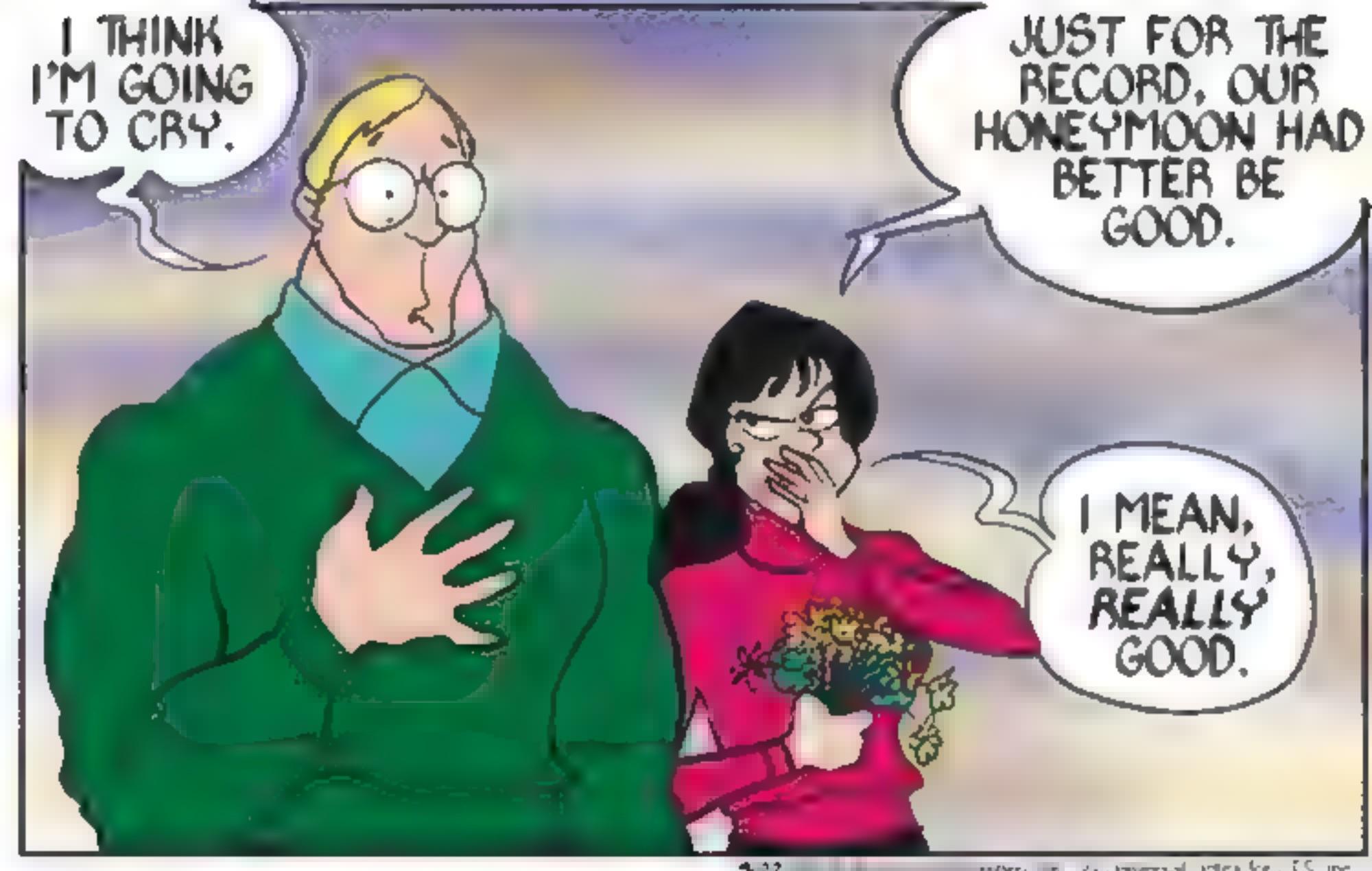
Brenda

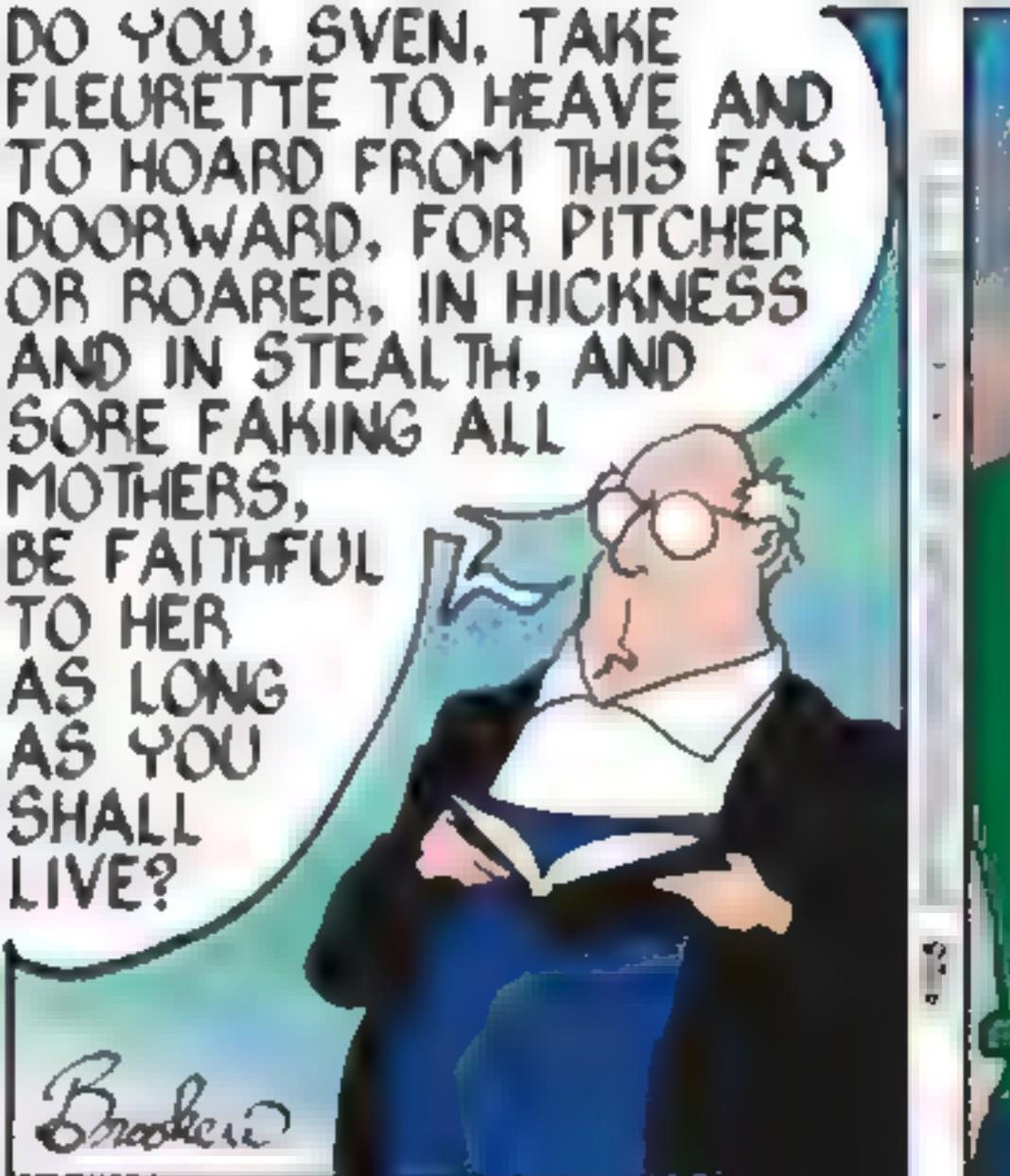








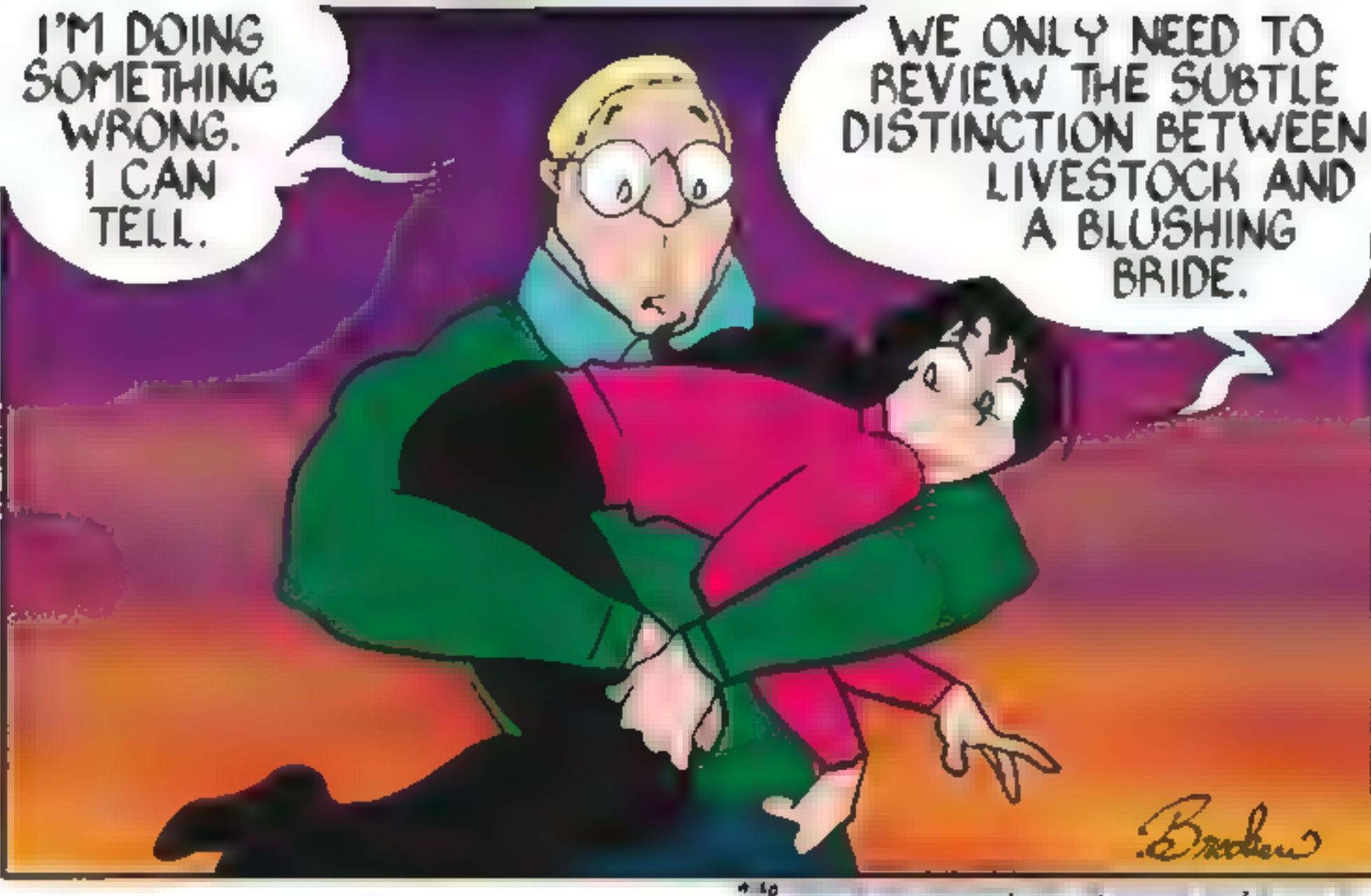


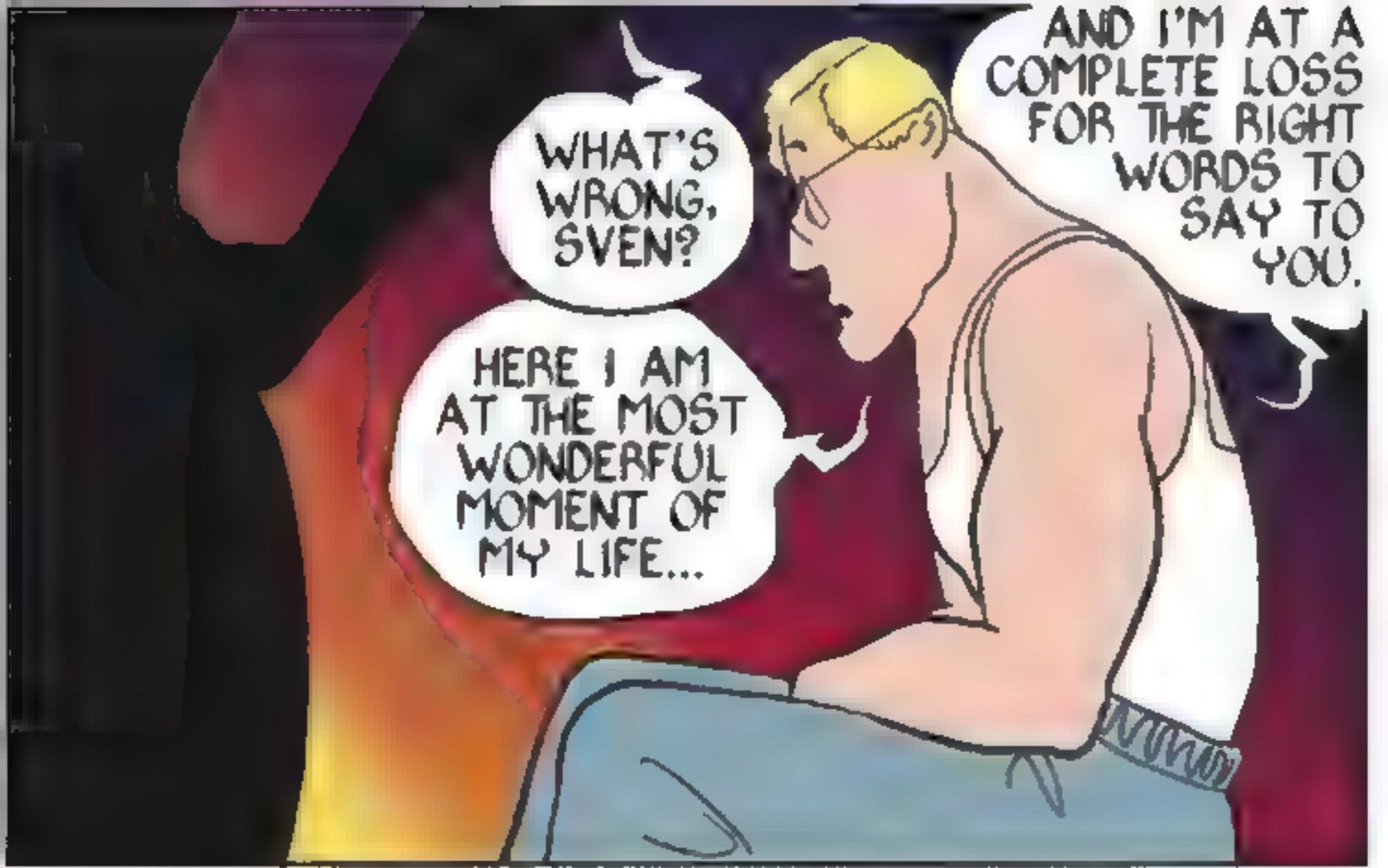


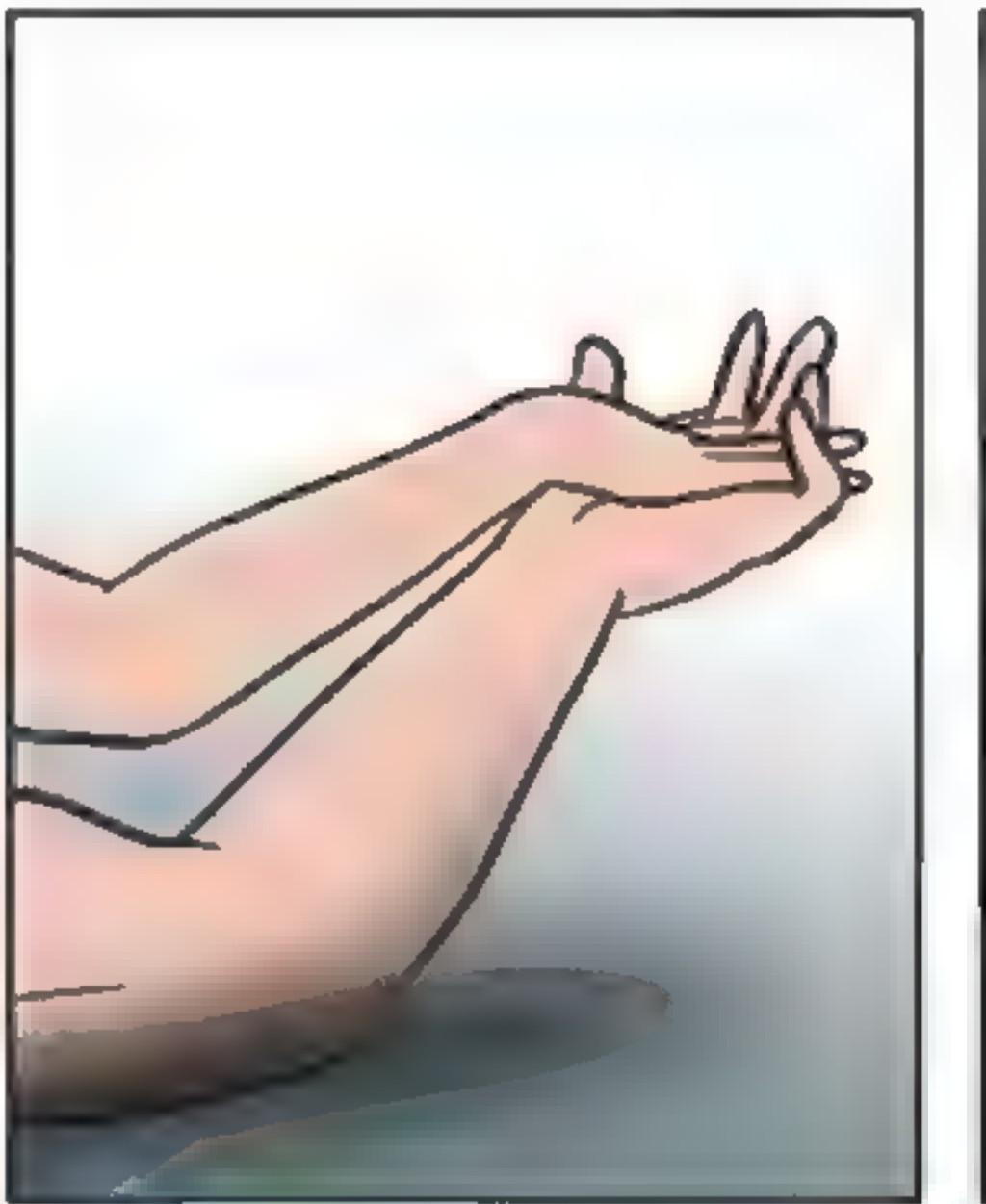
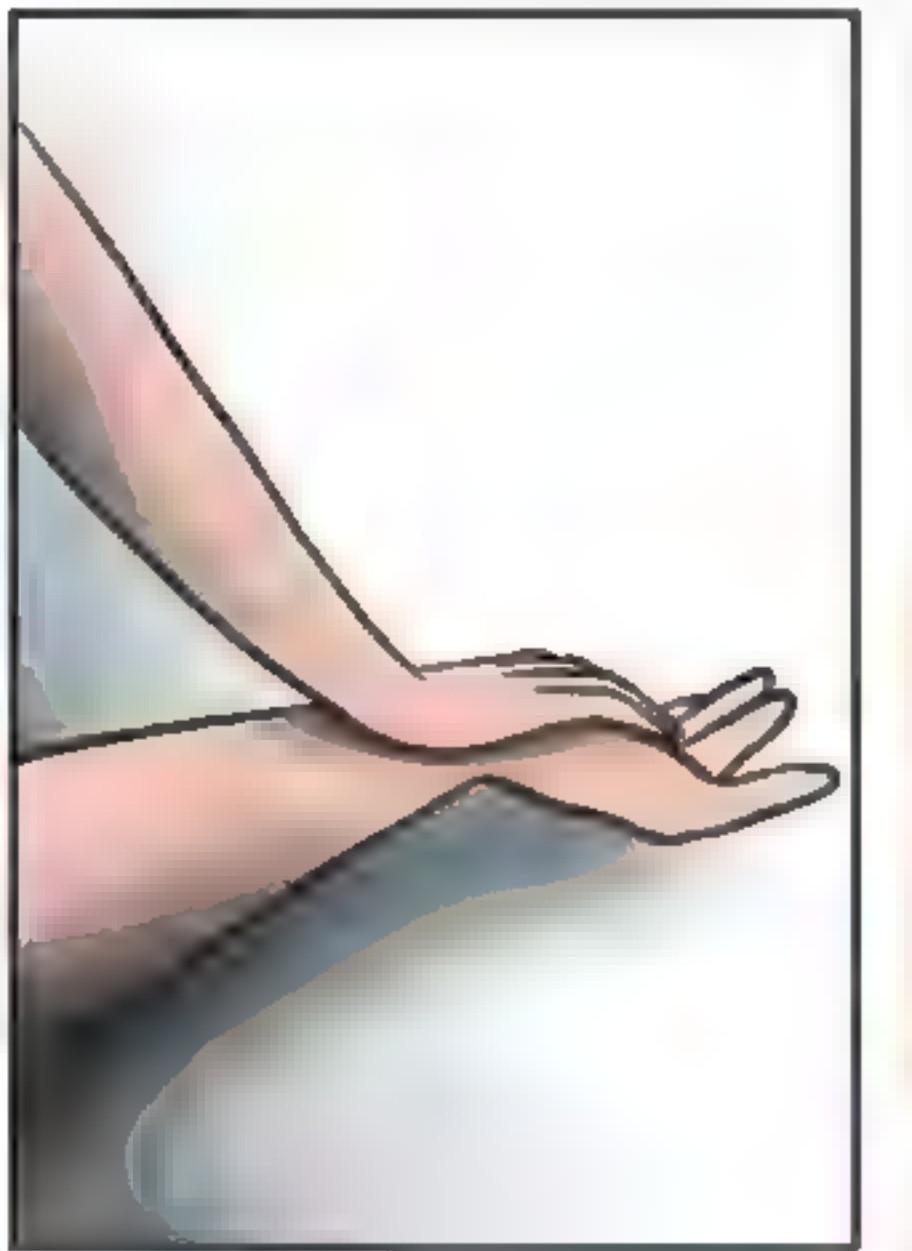


THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
SAY.



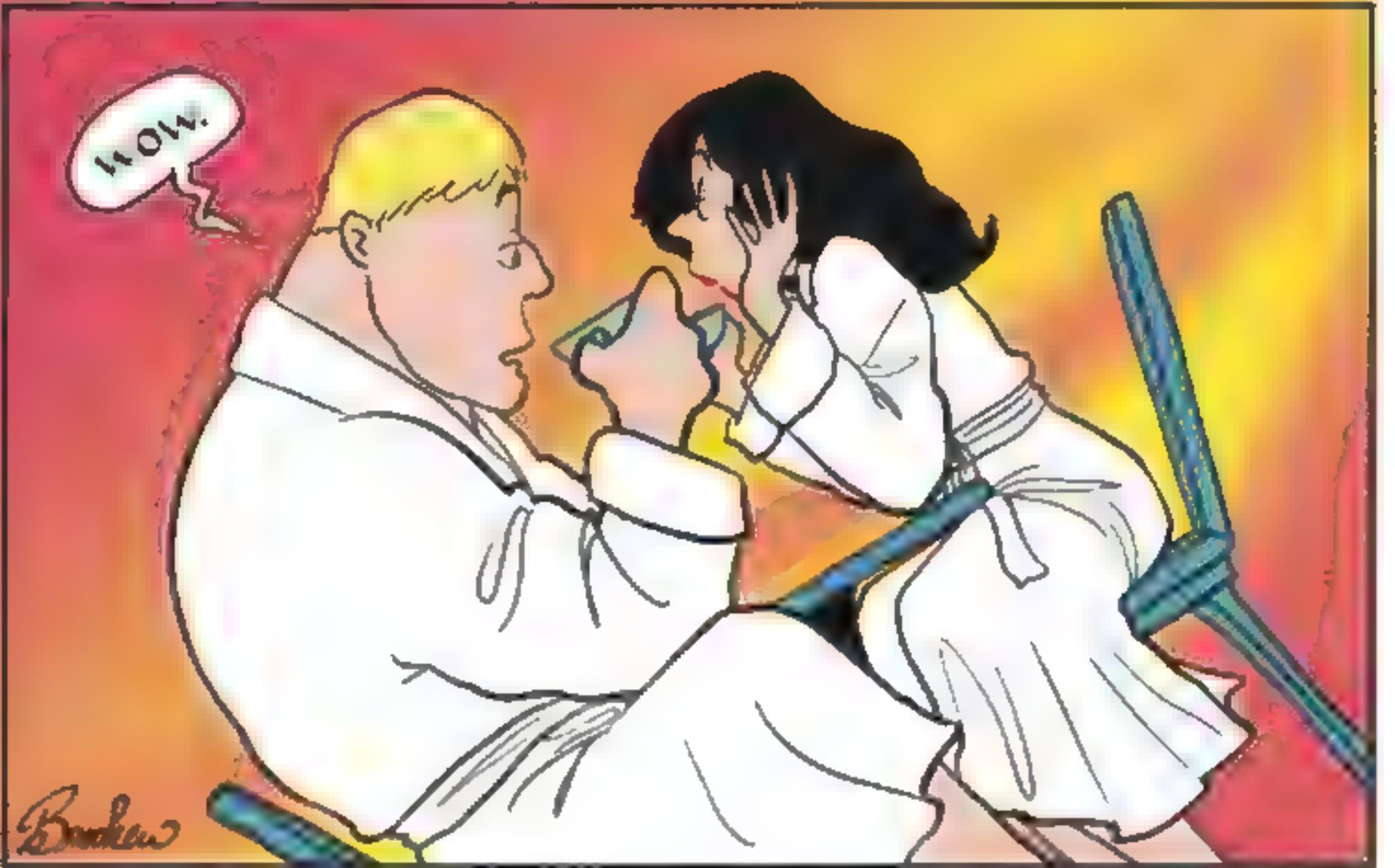


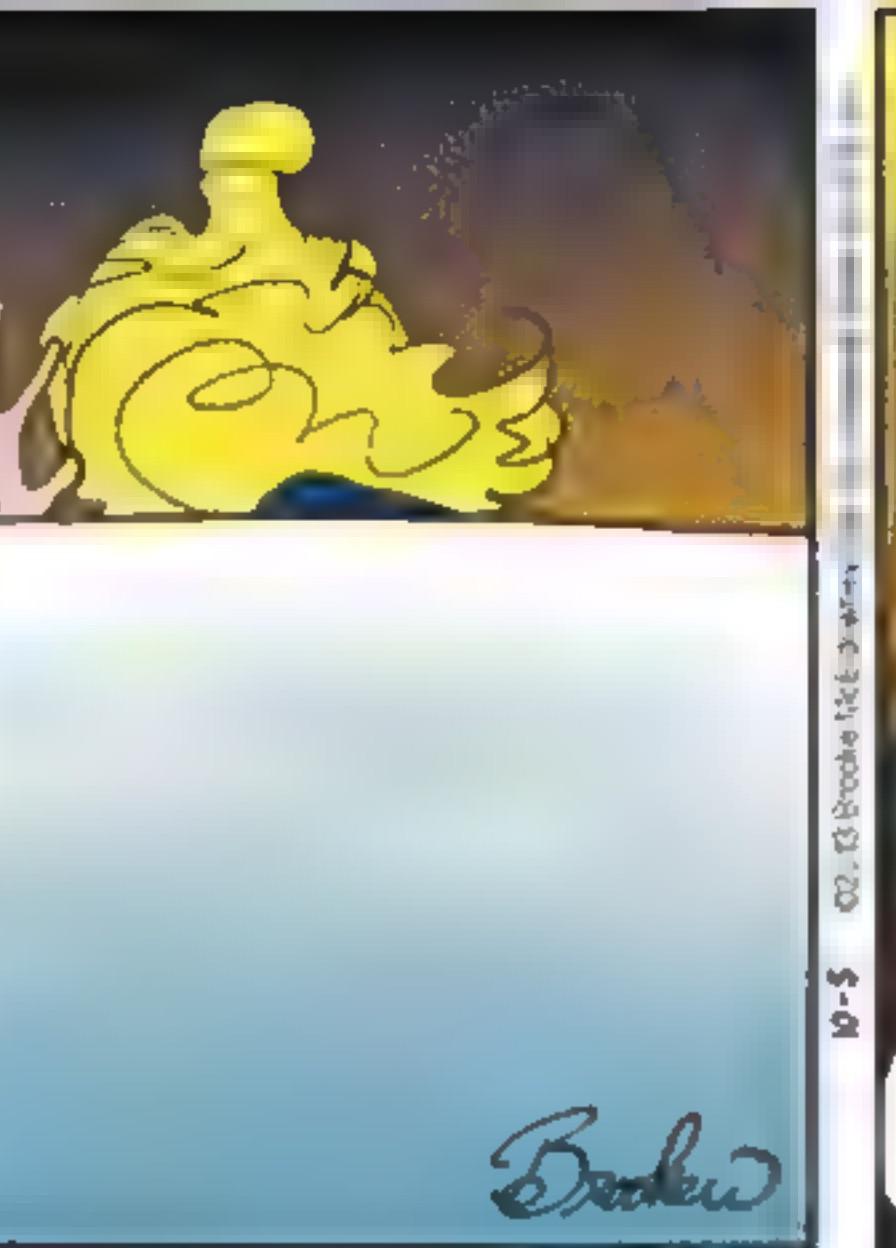
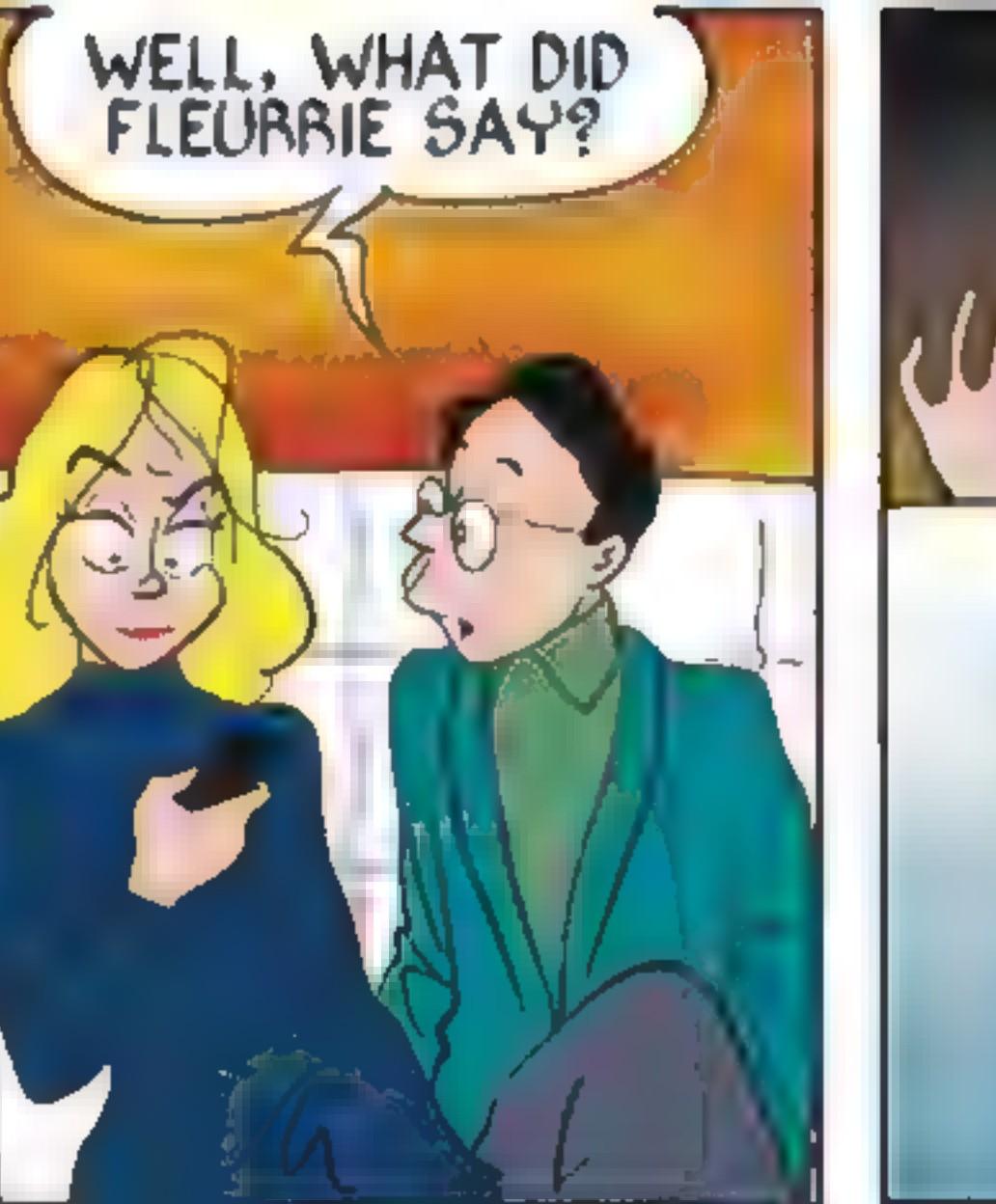
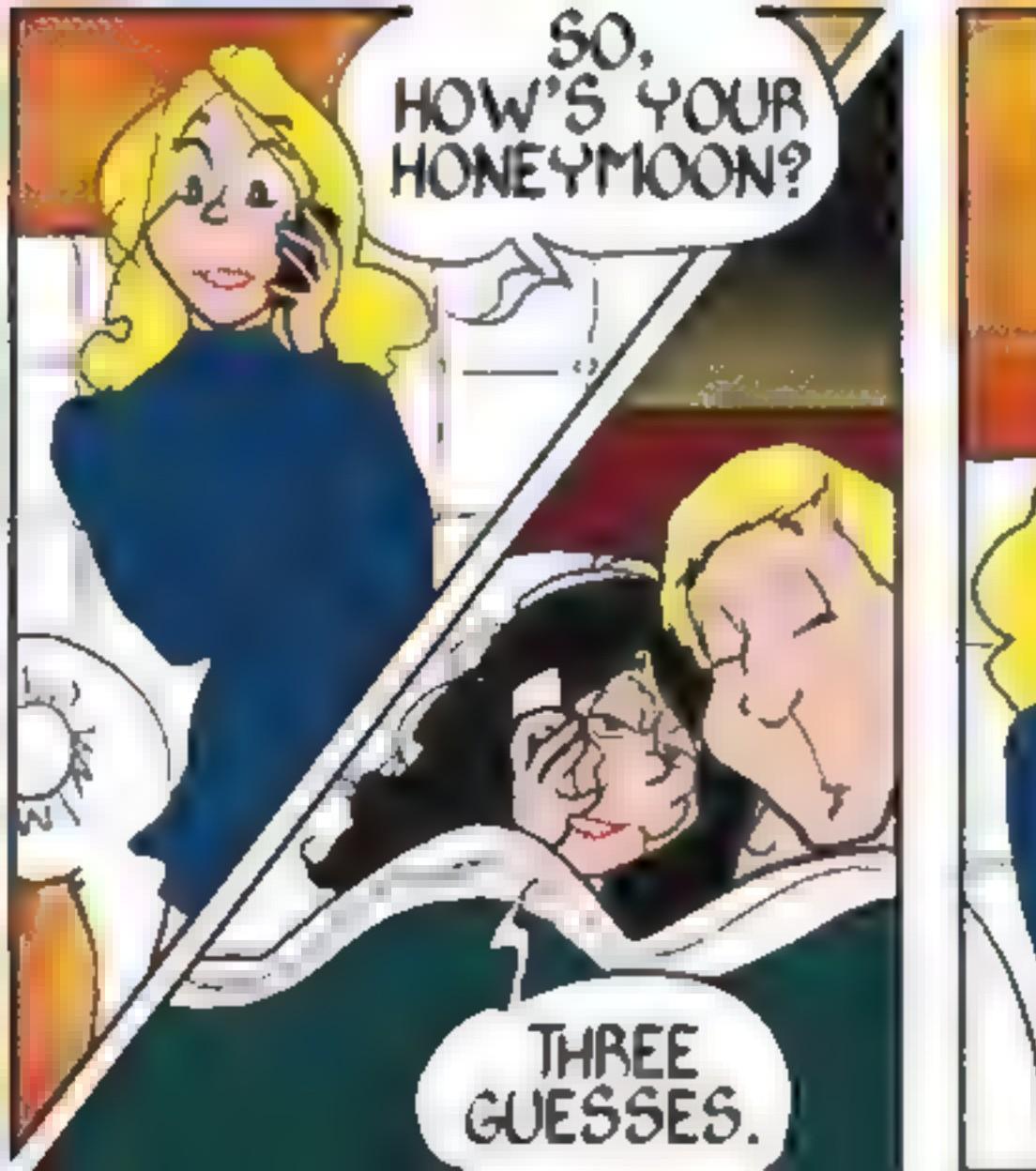


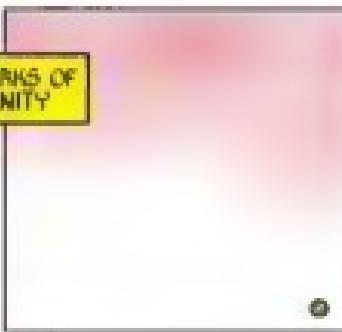




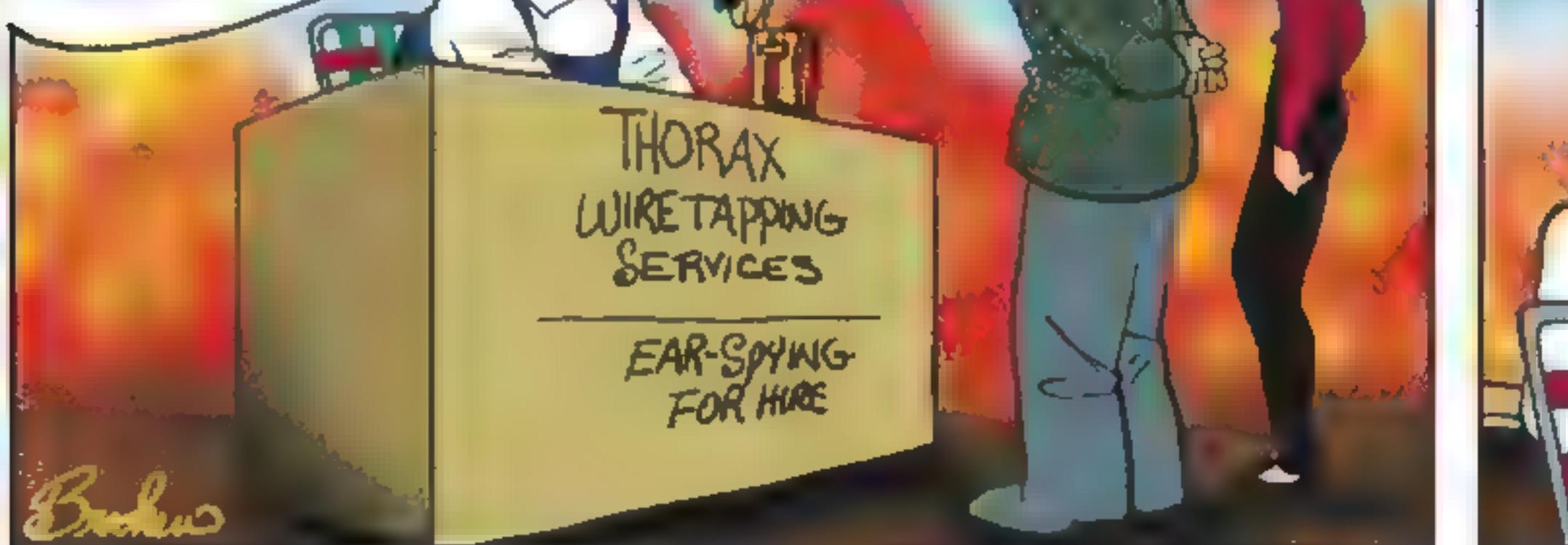
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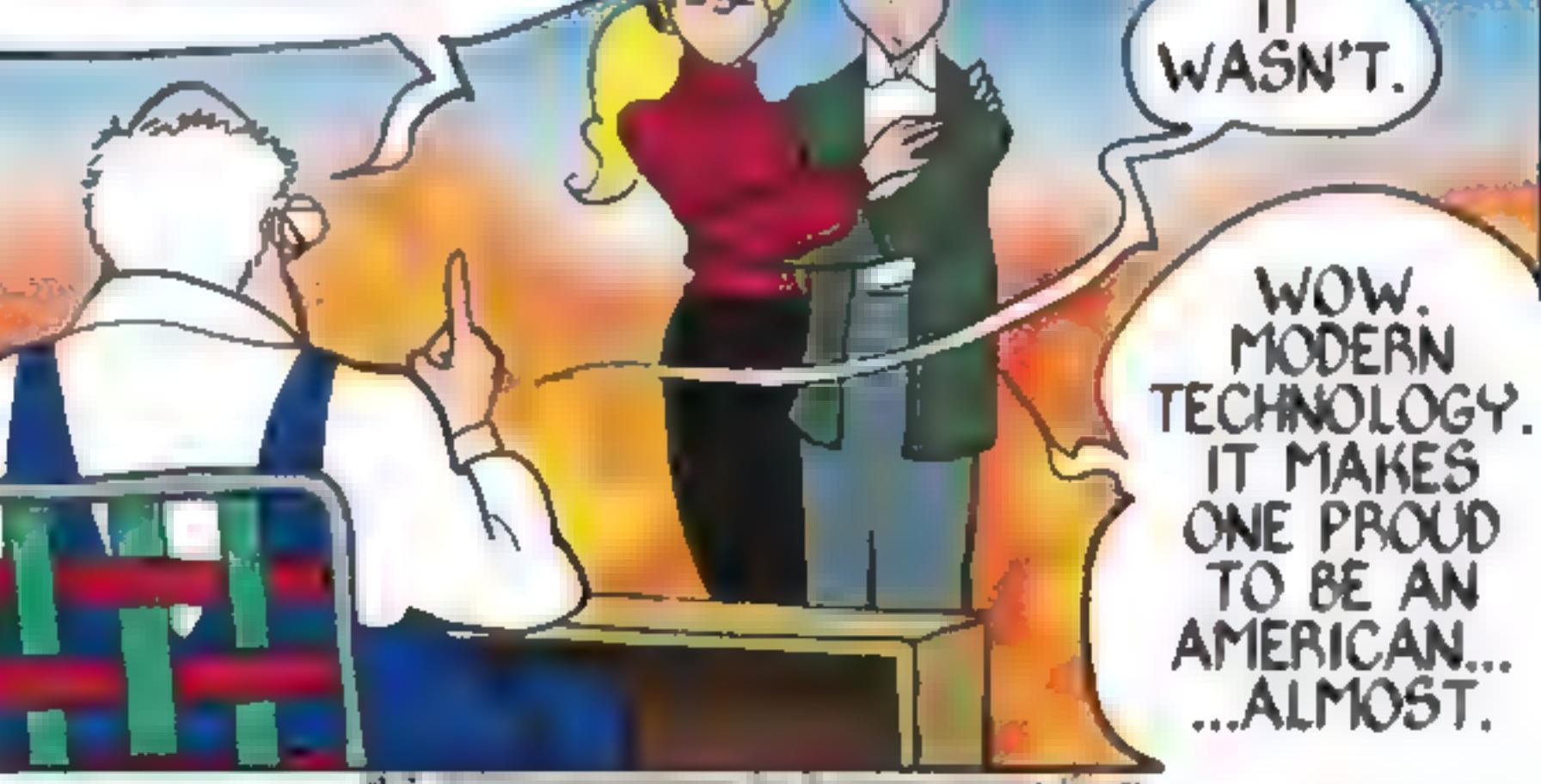




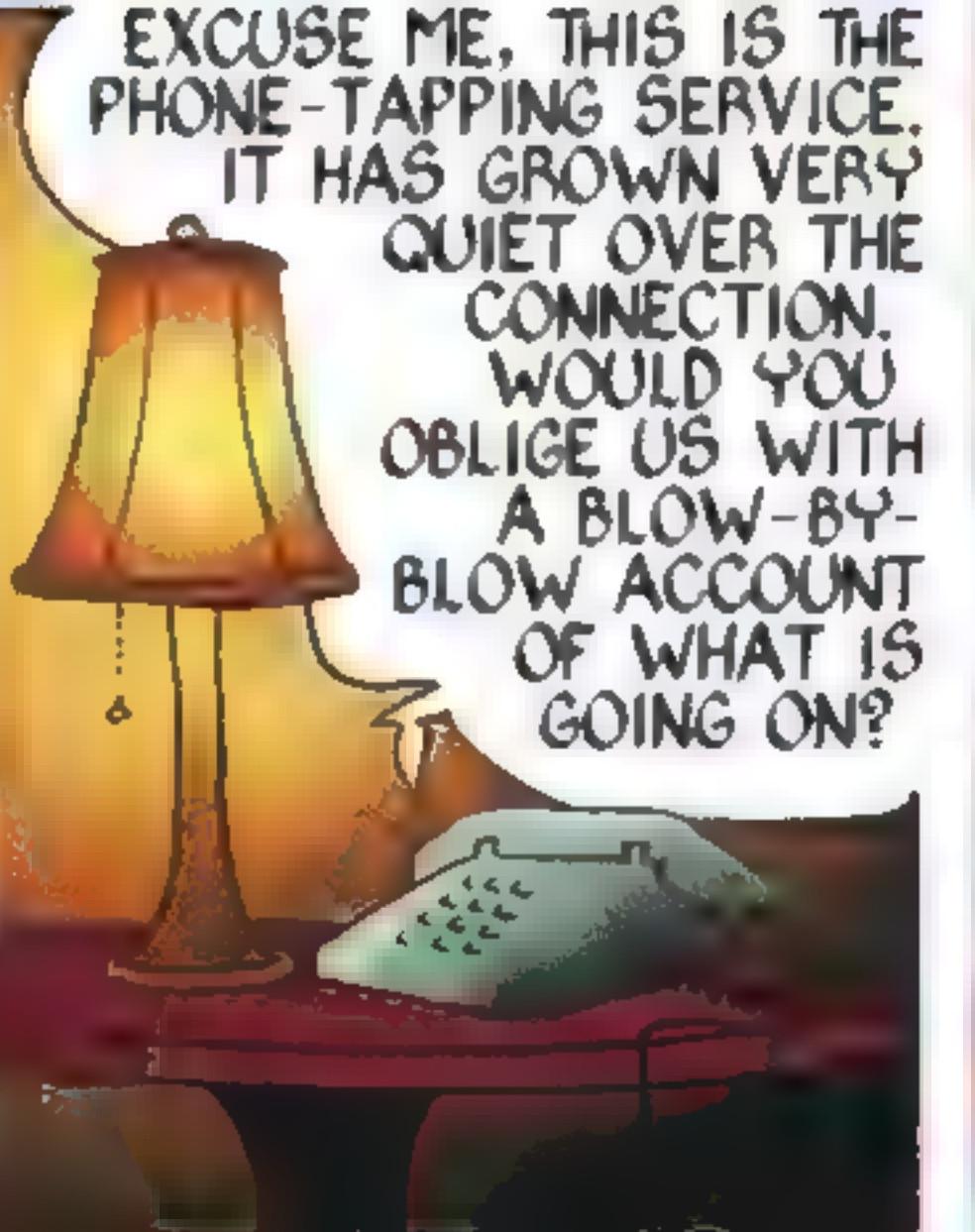
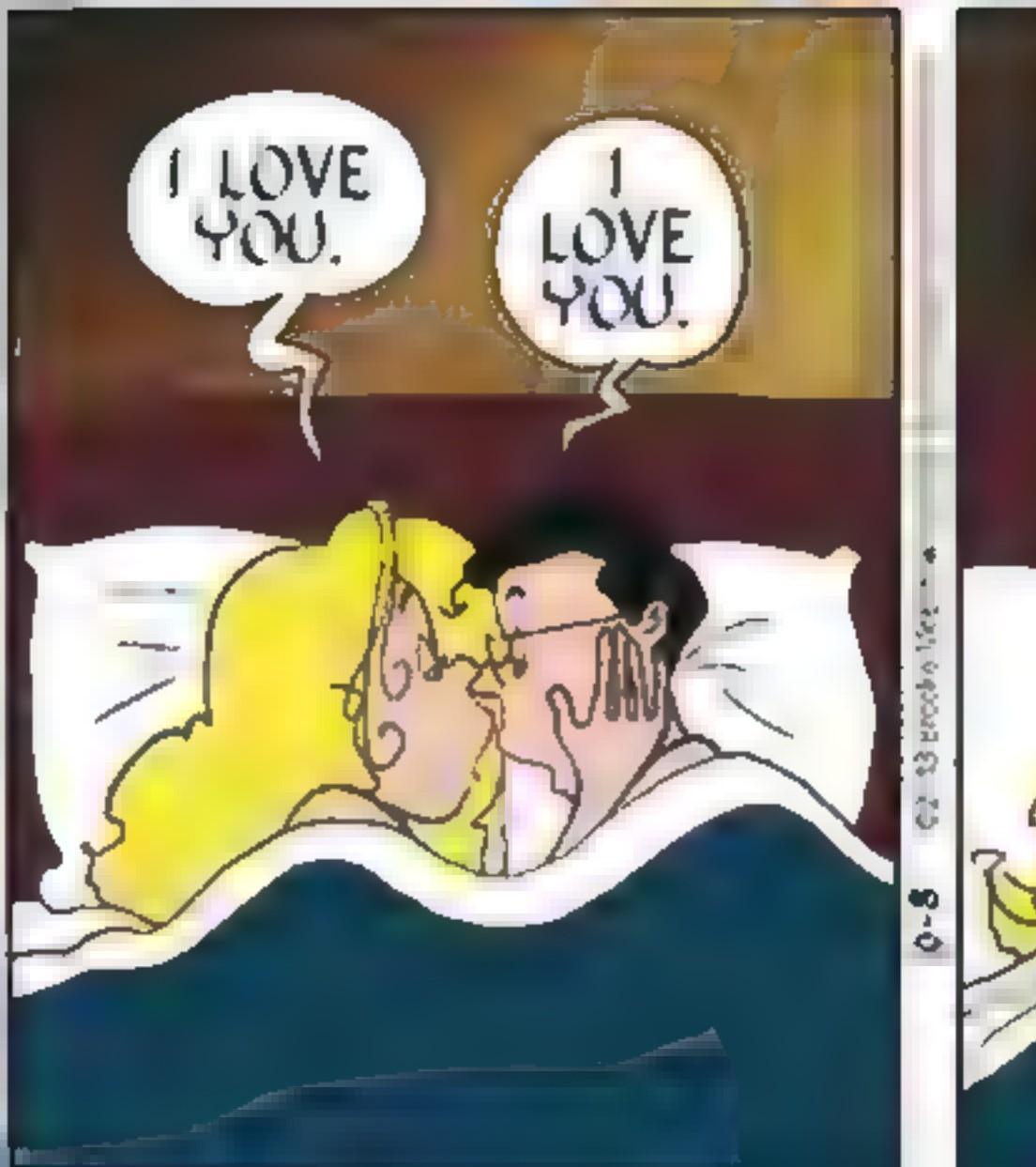
PRESENTLY, WE'RE UNDER RETAINER TO
THE FEDS, WHO ARE SWAMPED.
OUR MOTTO IS: WE TAP PHONES
WITHOUT REFERENCE
TO RACE, CREED,
OR NATIONAL
ORIGIN.

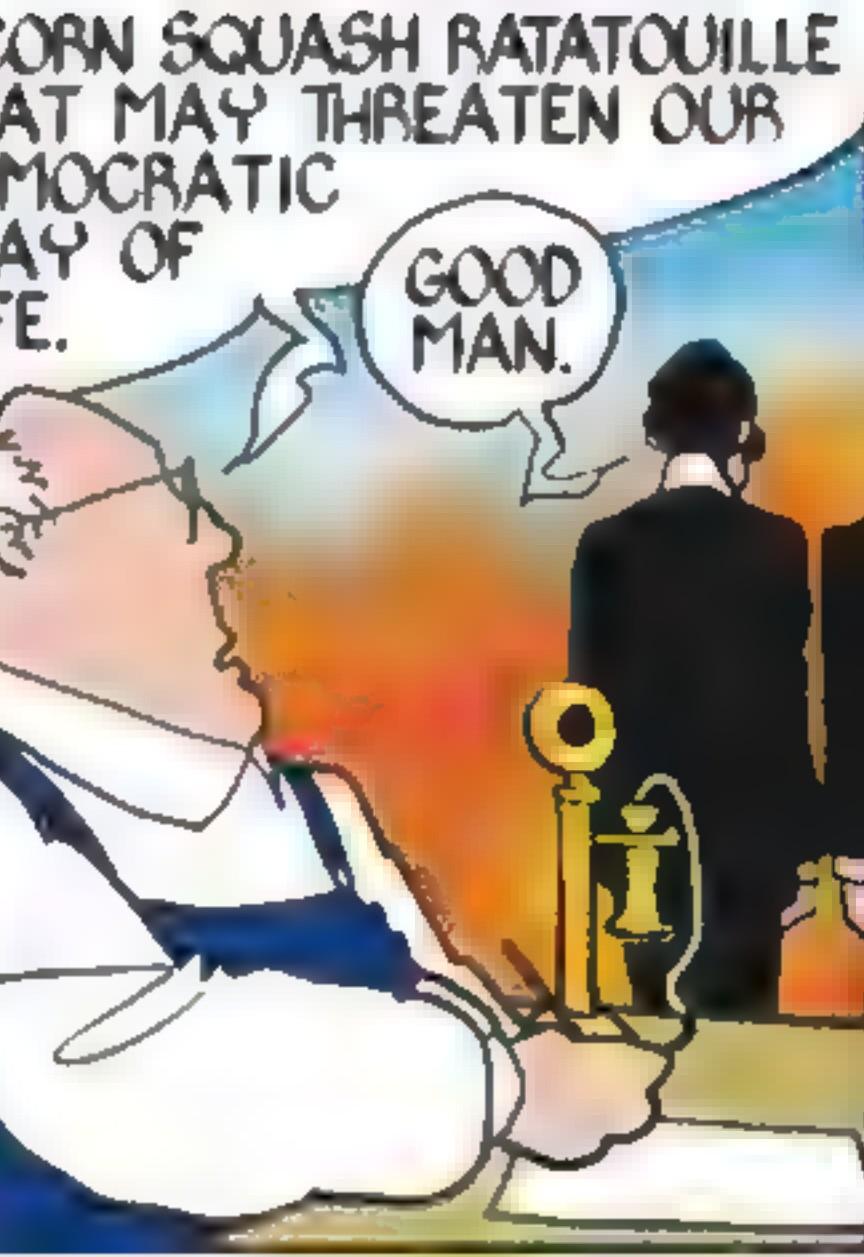
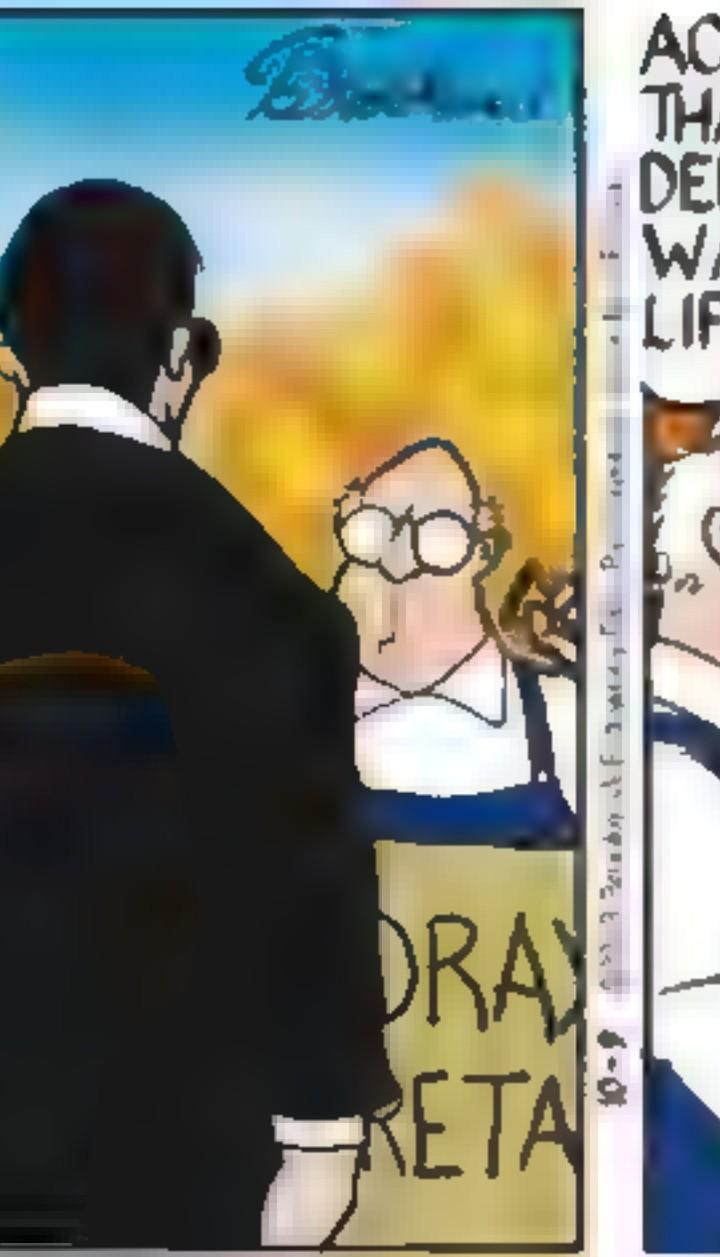


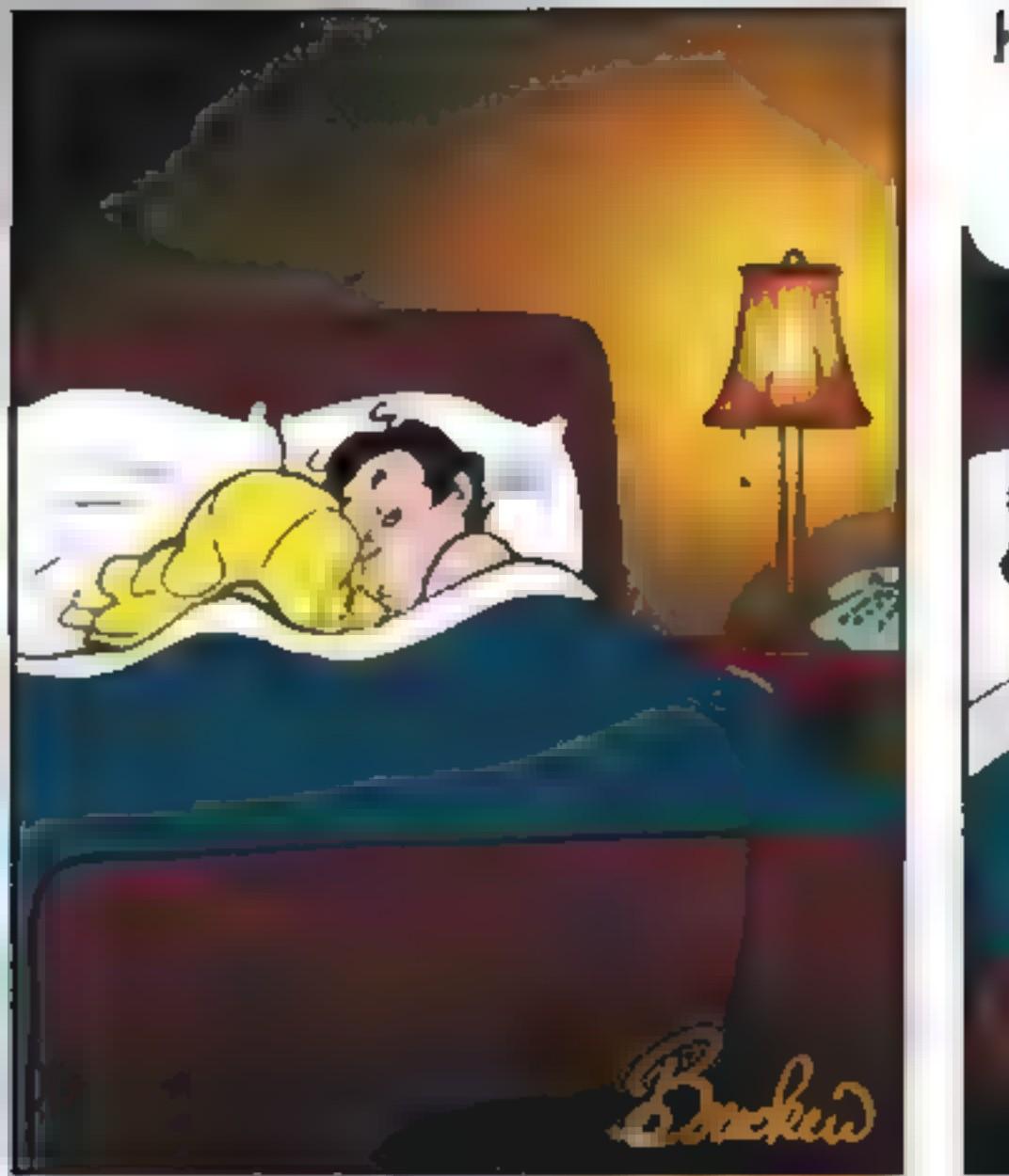
AND MIGHT I MENTION, MS. BURBER,
THAT WHEN YOU CRY "OH, SWEET
BABY!" IN OUTBURSTS OF
RAPTURE, YOU REALLY
NEED TO ENUNCIATE.

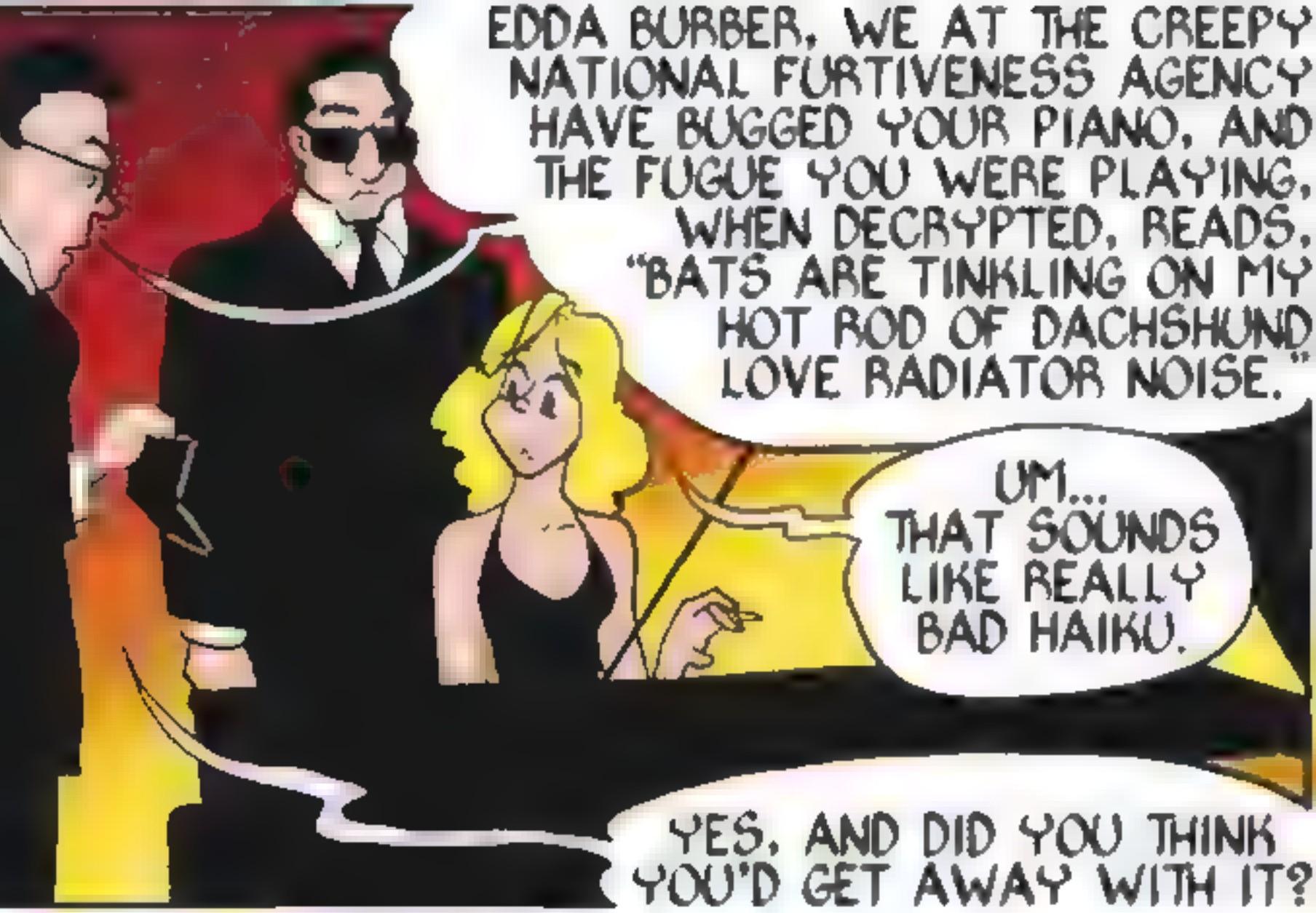
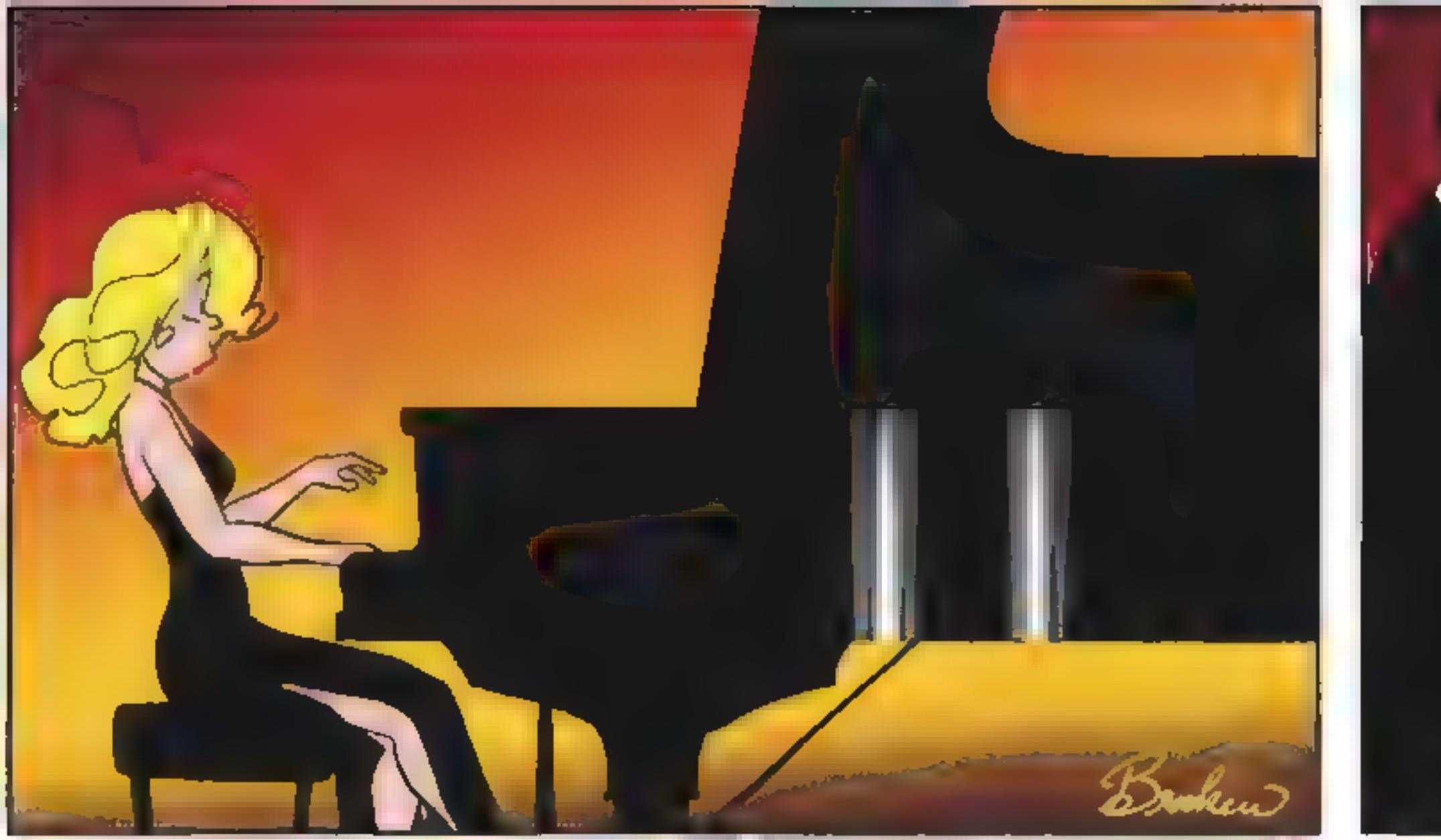


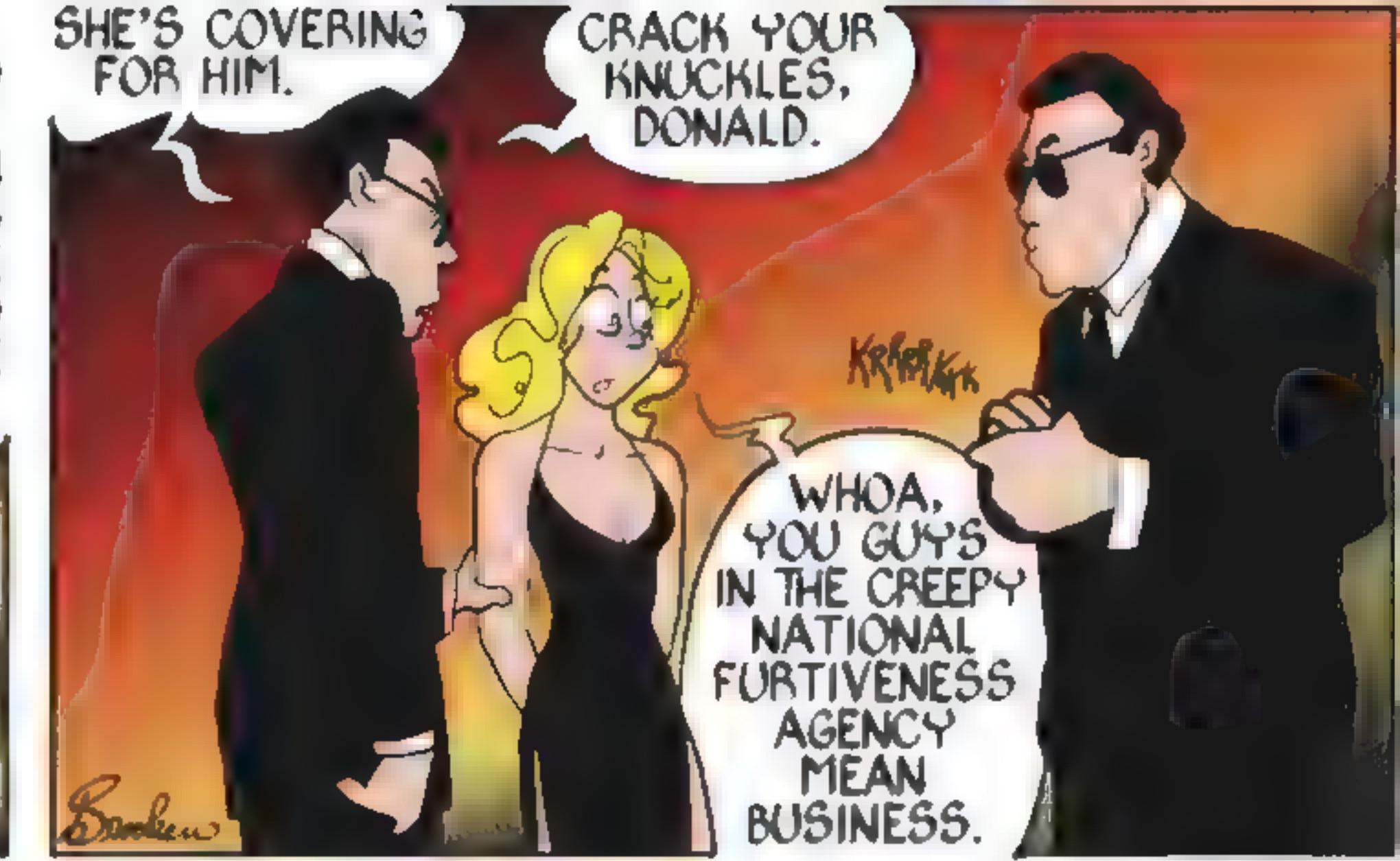
I DIDN'T REALIZE
MY PHONE WAS
OFF THE HOOK.

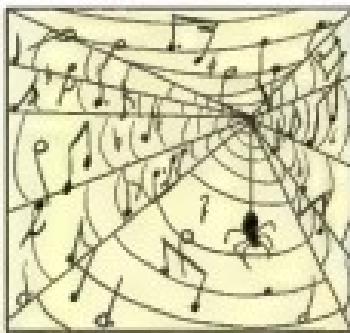
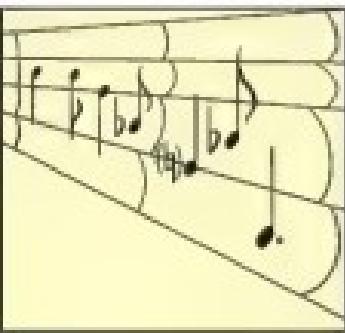
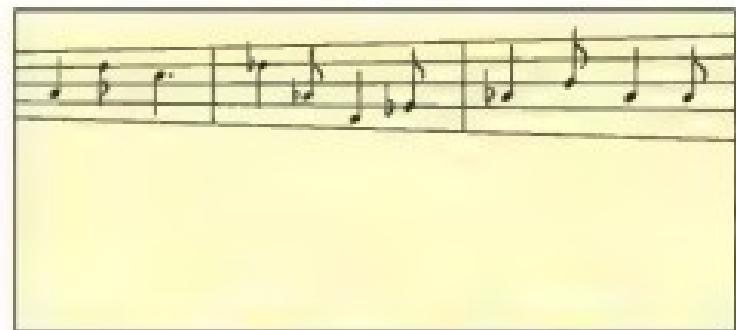
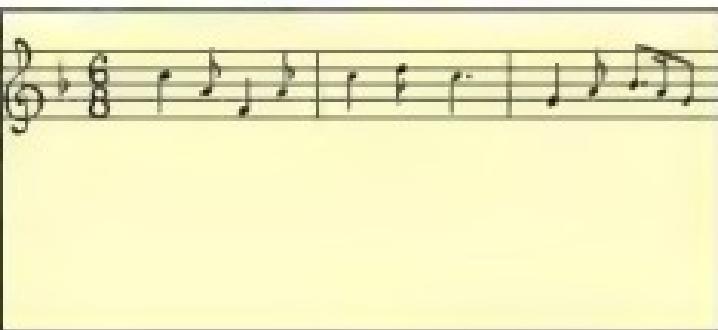




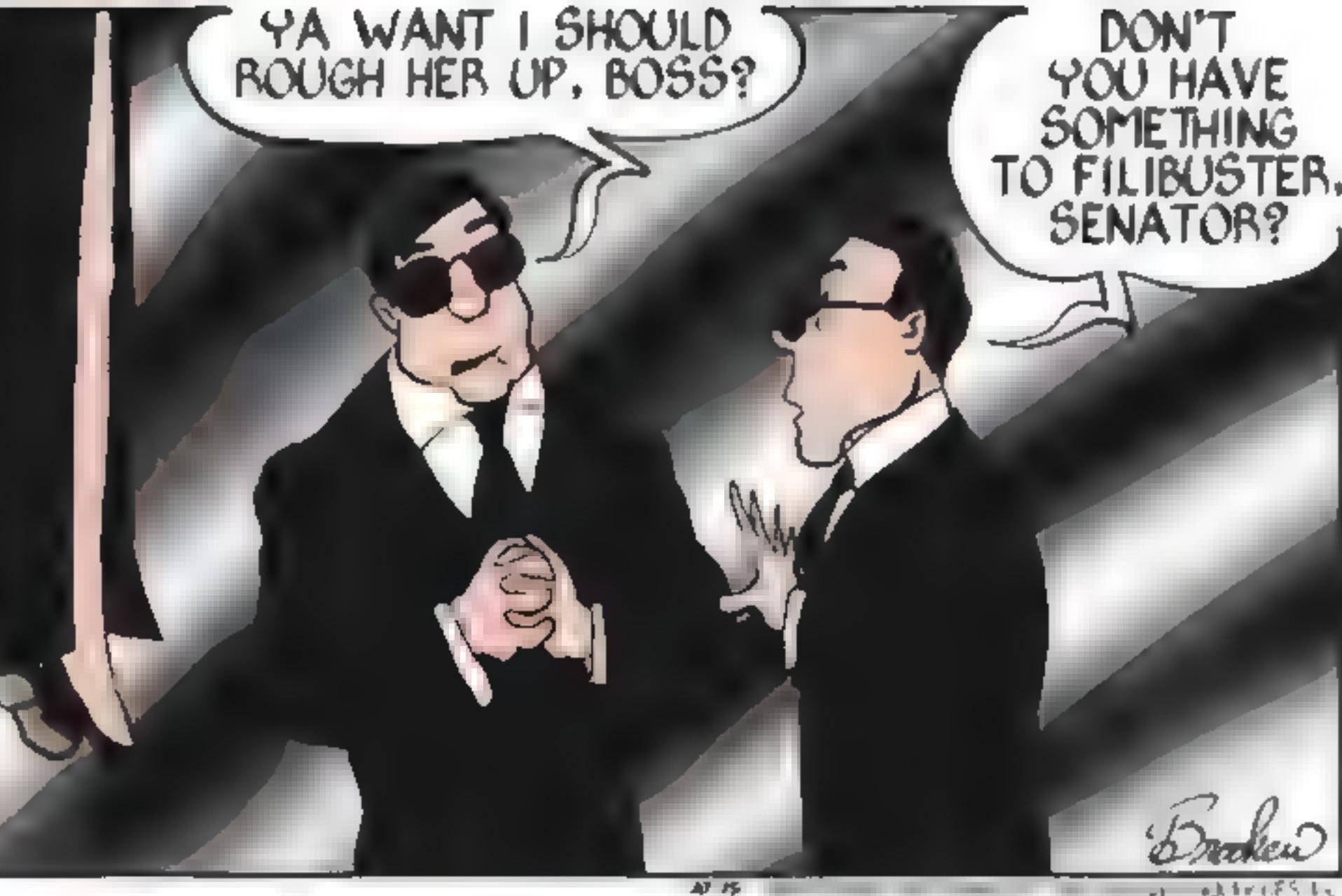


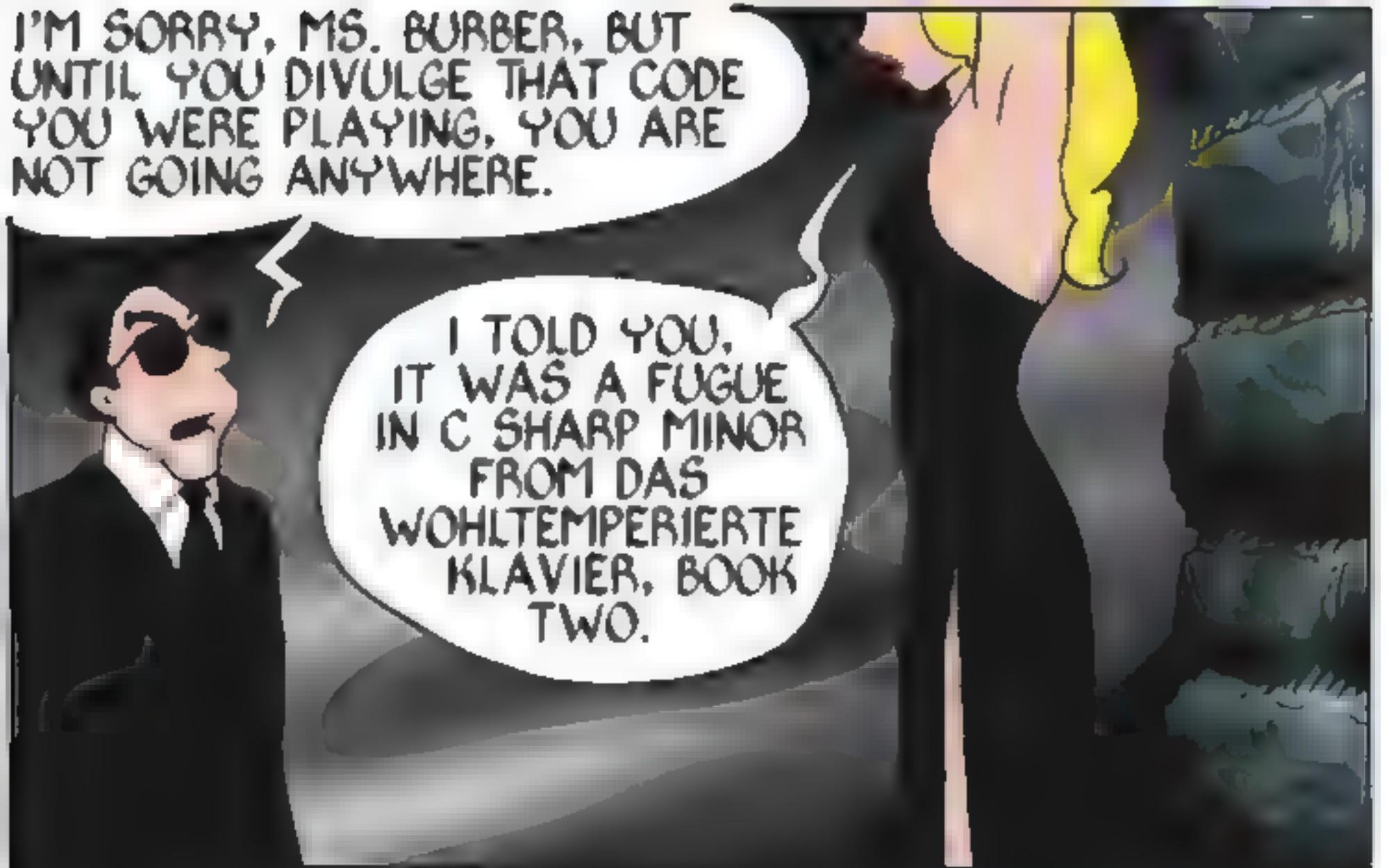


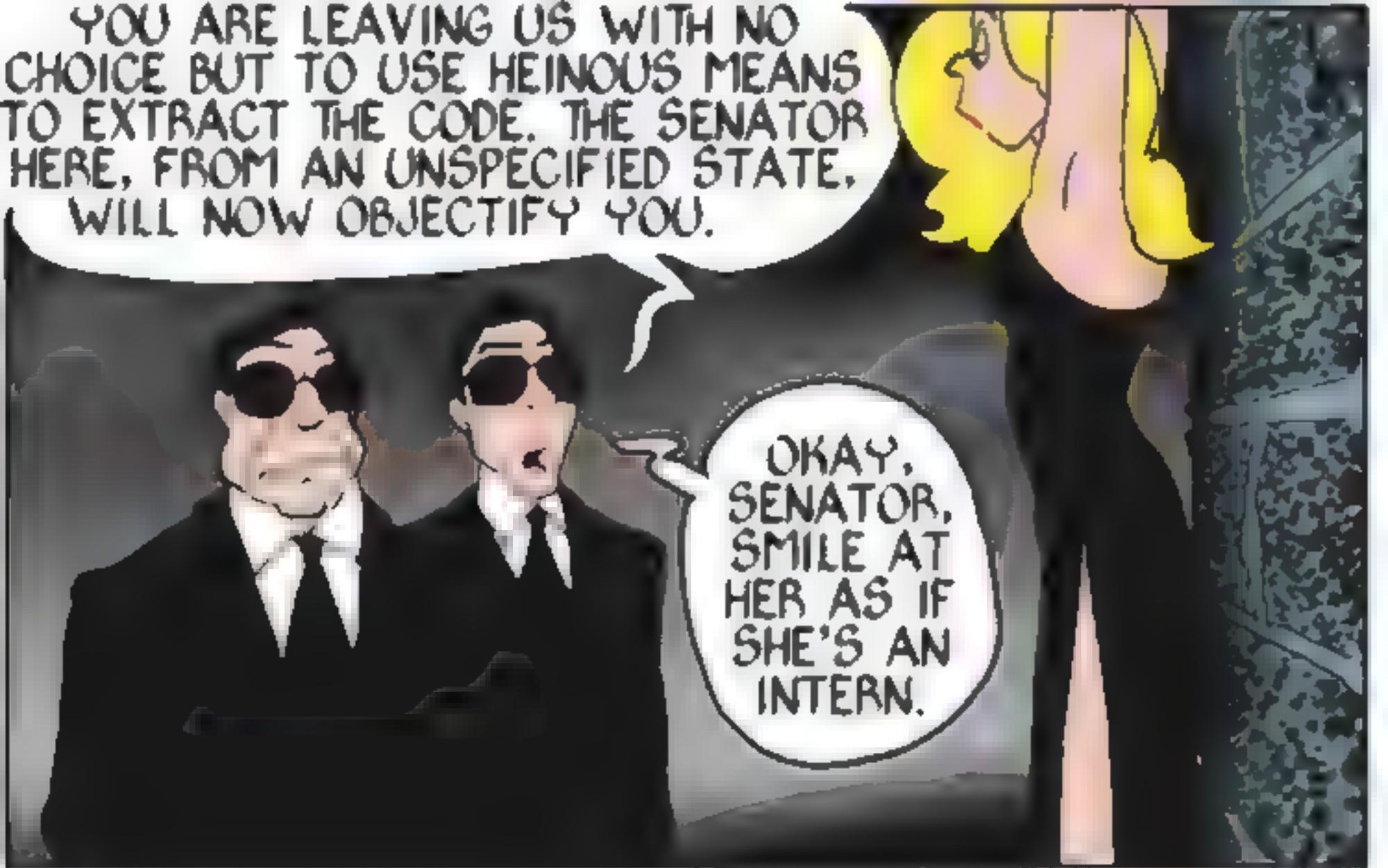






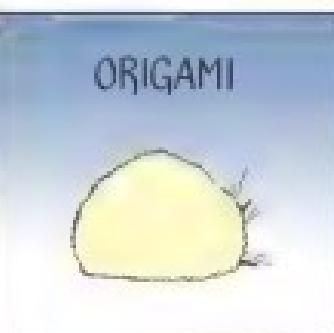
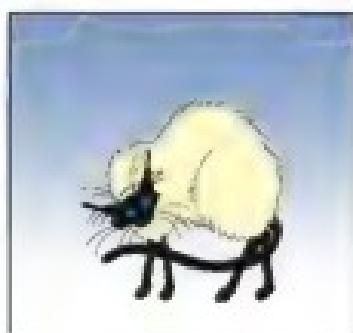
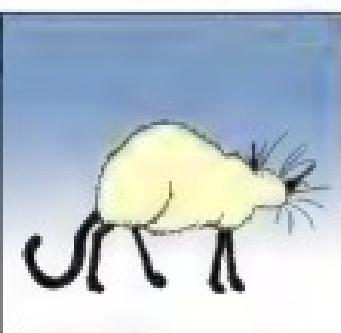
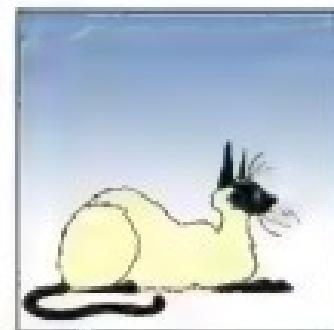
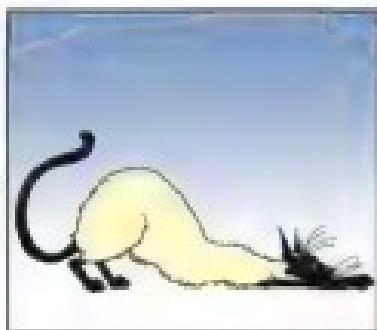
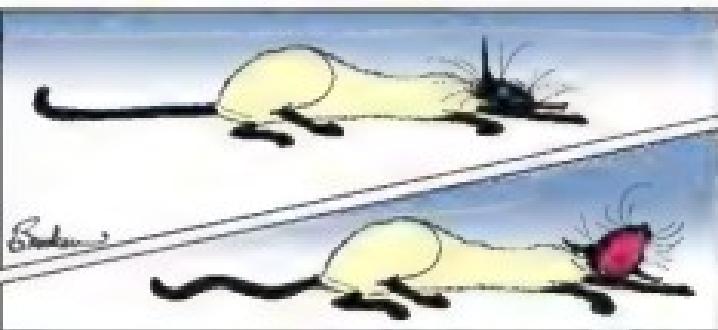


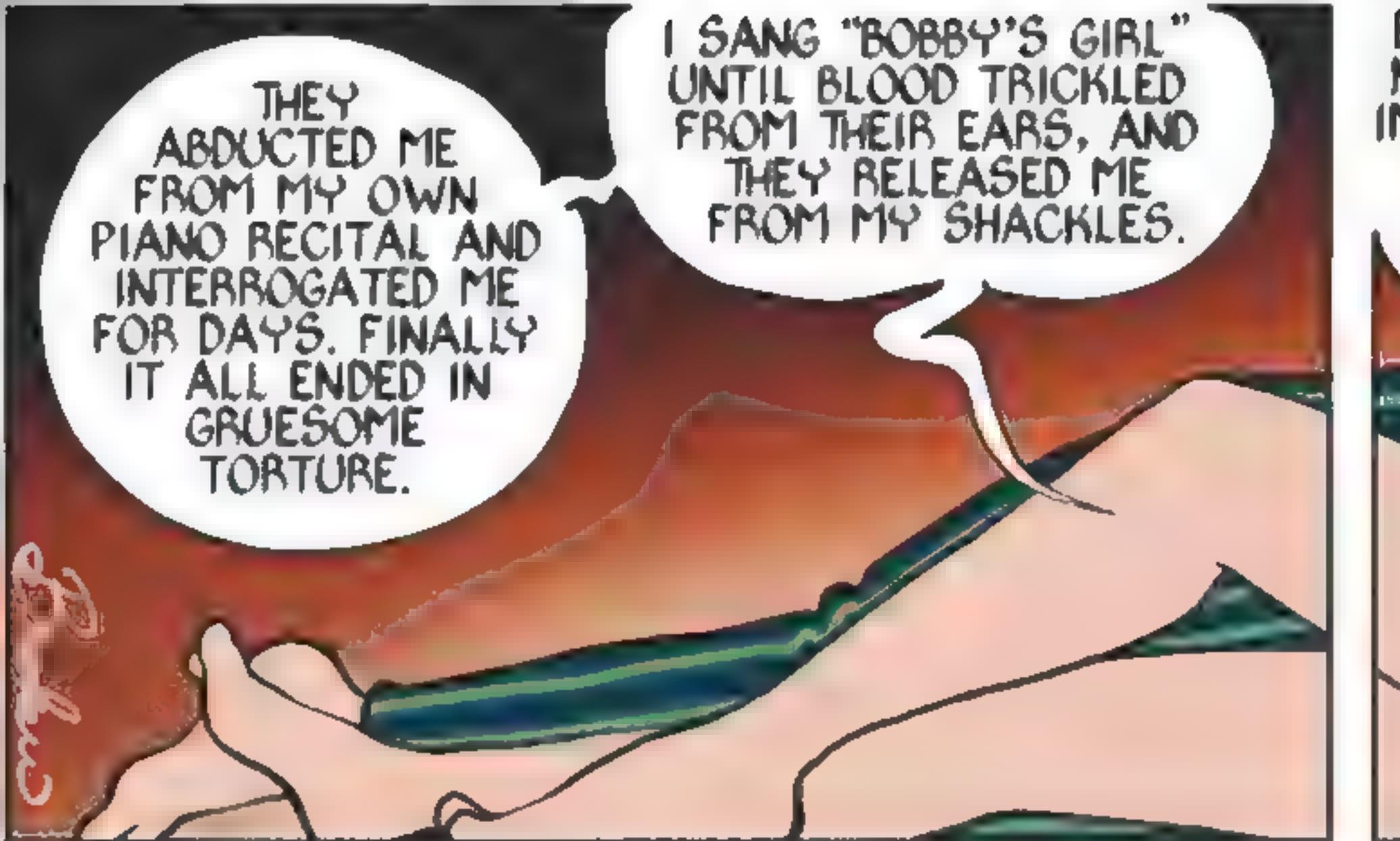






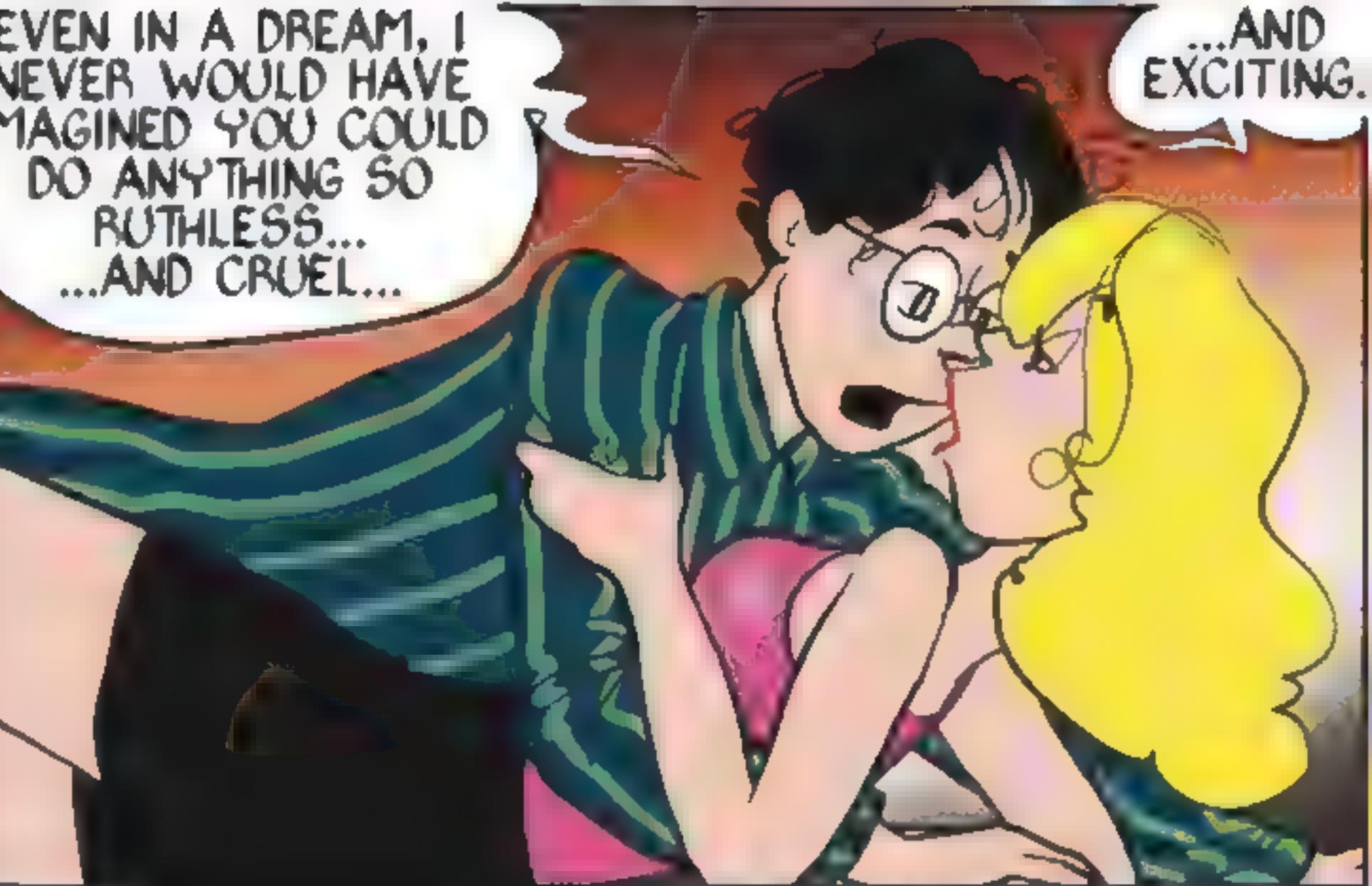






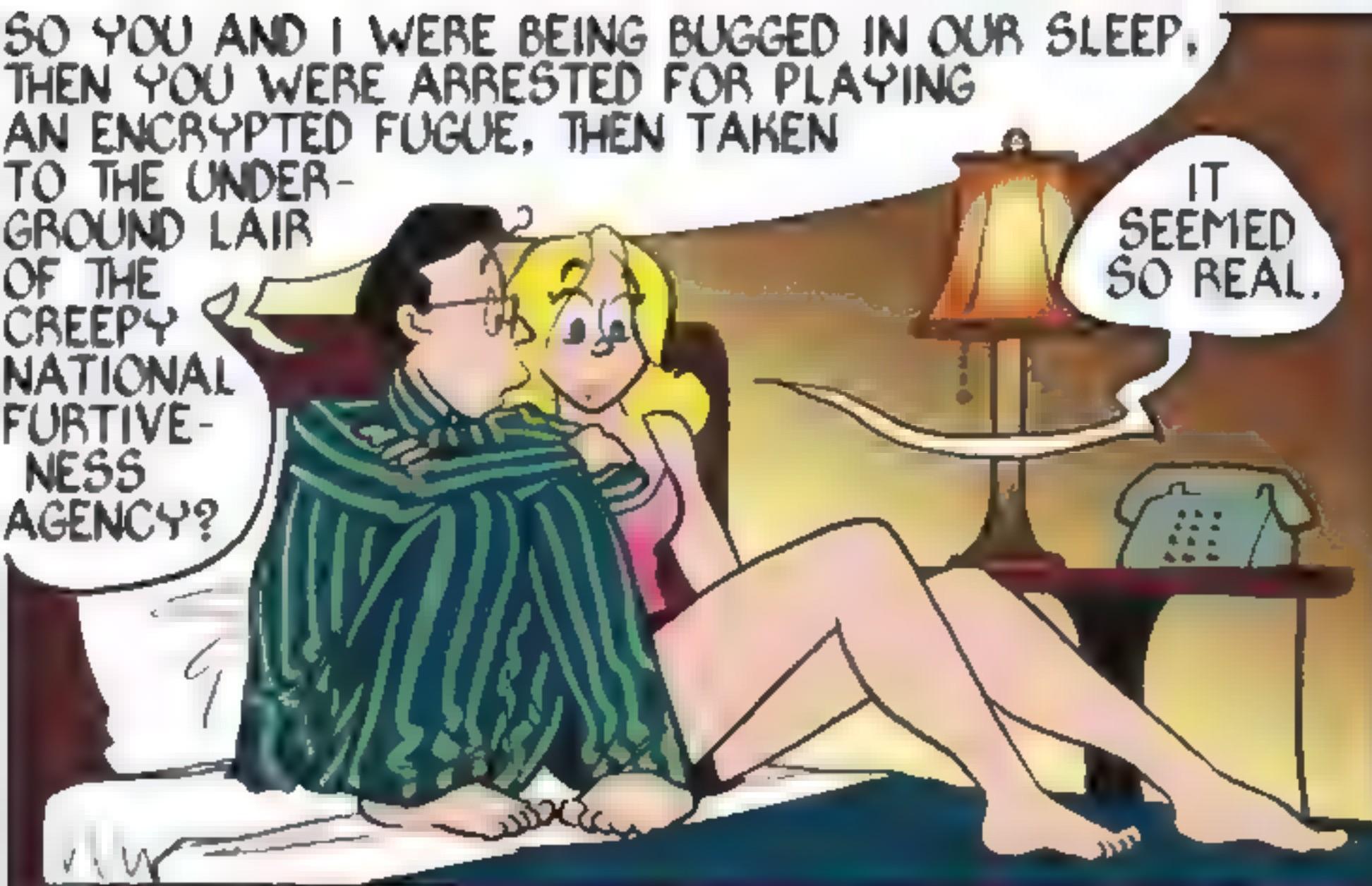
THEY ABDUCTED ME FROM MY OWN PIANO RECITAL AND INTERROGATED ME FOR DAYS. FINALLY IT ALL ENDED IN GRUESOME TORTURE.

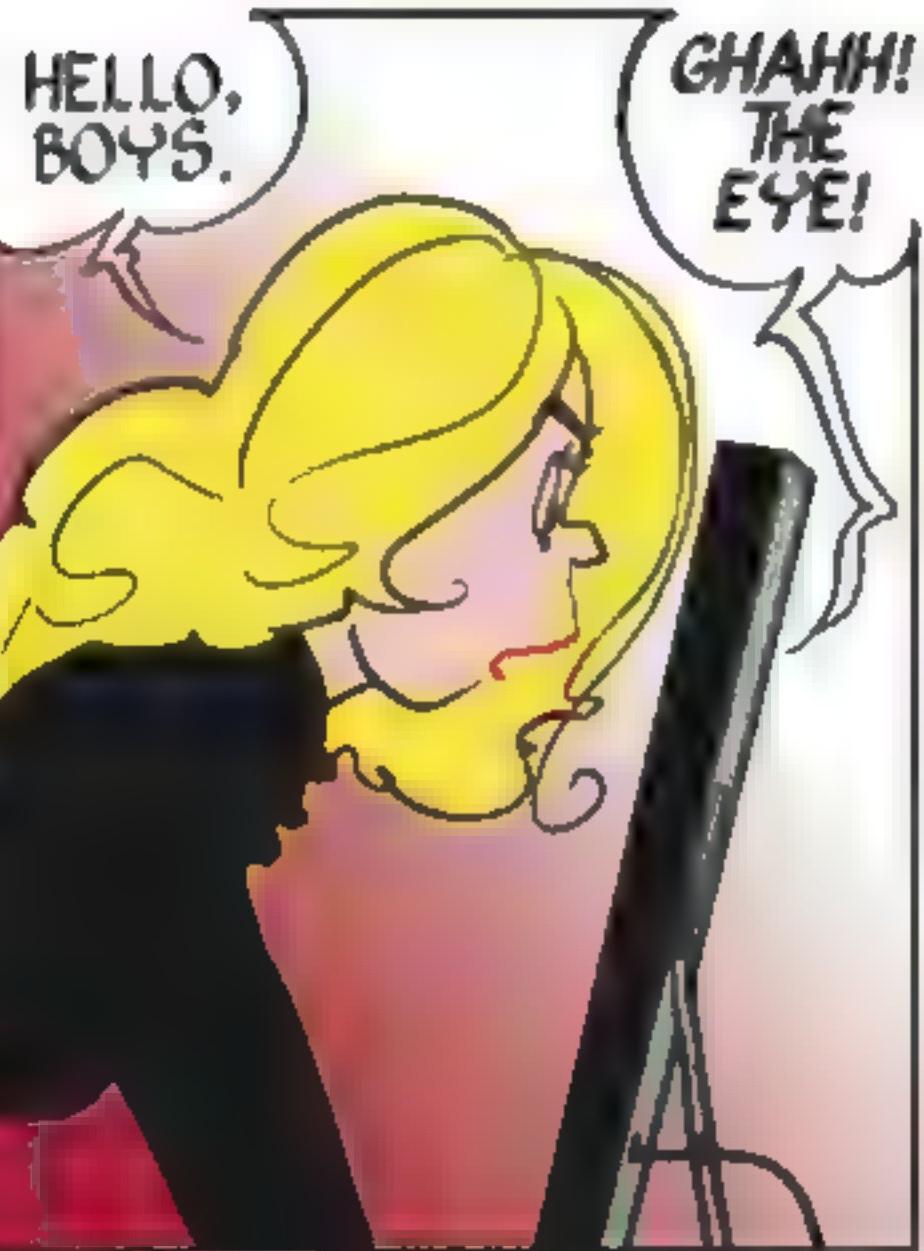
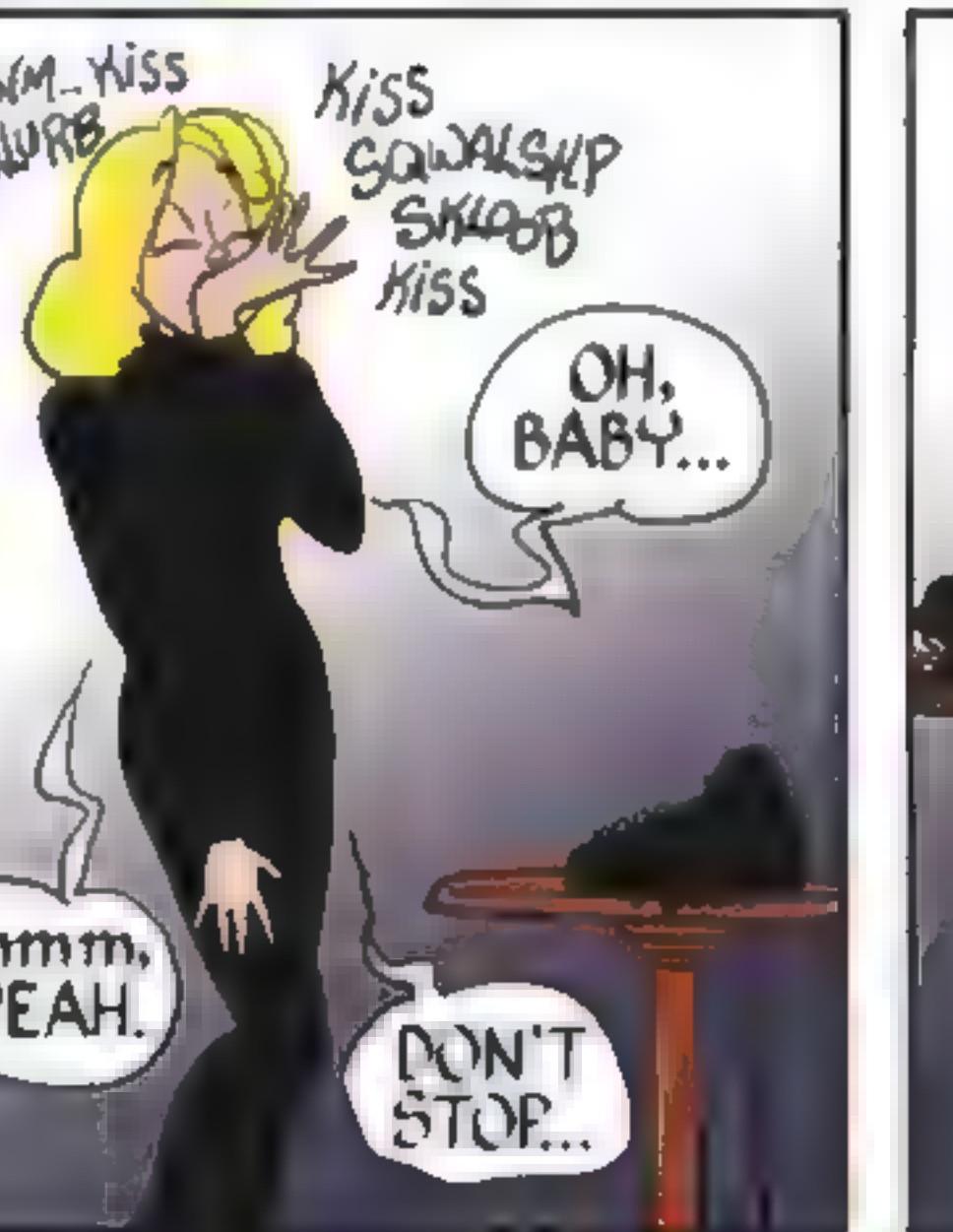
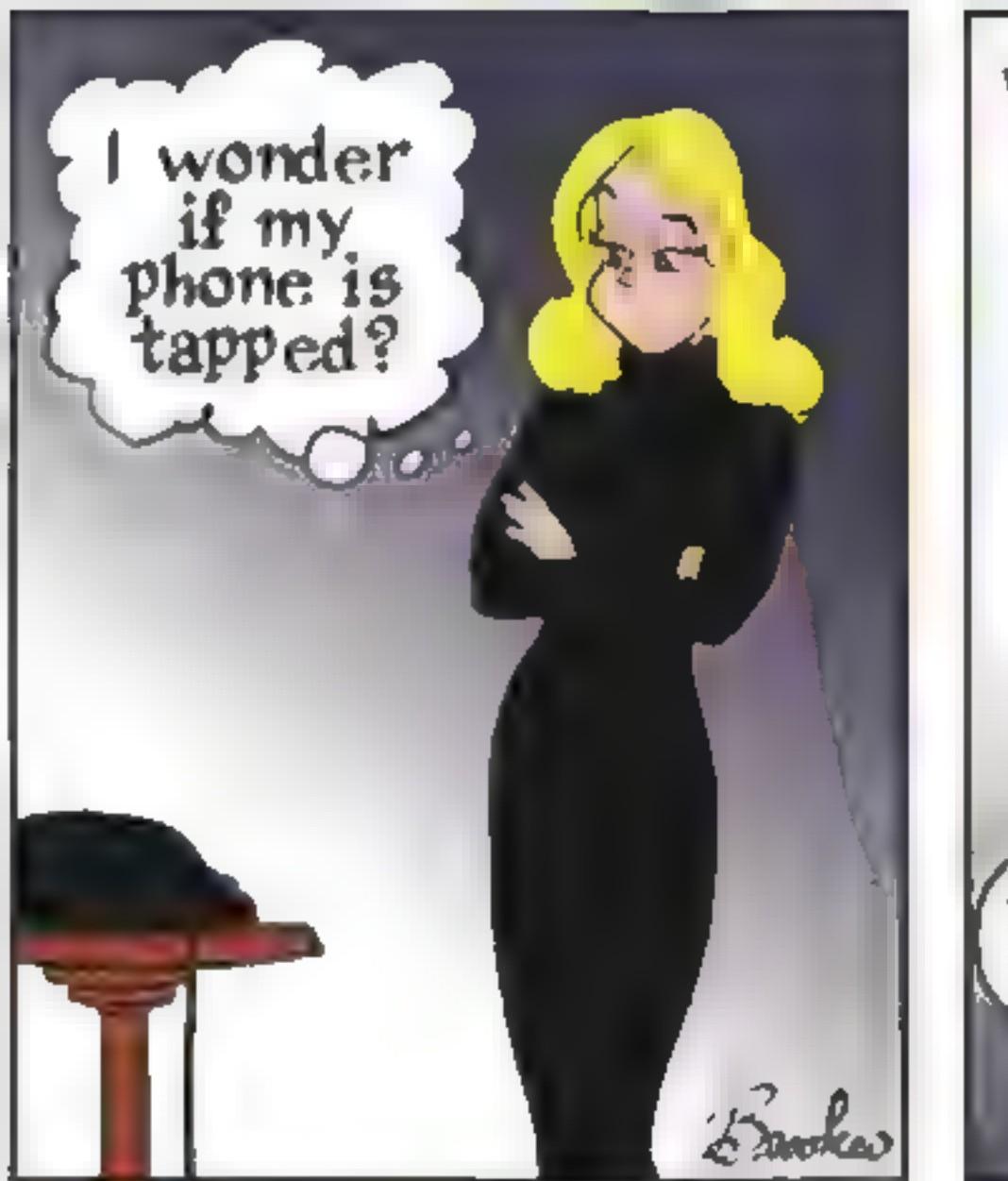
I SANG "BOBBY'S GIRL" UNTIL BLOOD TRICKLED FROM THEIR EARS, AND THEY RELEASED ME FROM MY SHACKLES.



EVEN IN A DREAM, I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED YOU COULD DO ANYTHING SO RUTHLESS... ...AND CRUEL...

...AND EXCITING.





THORAX: SHADOW PRESIDENT

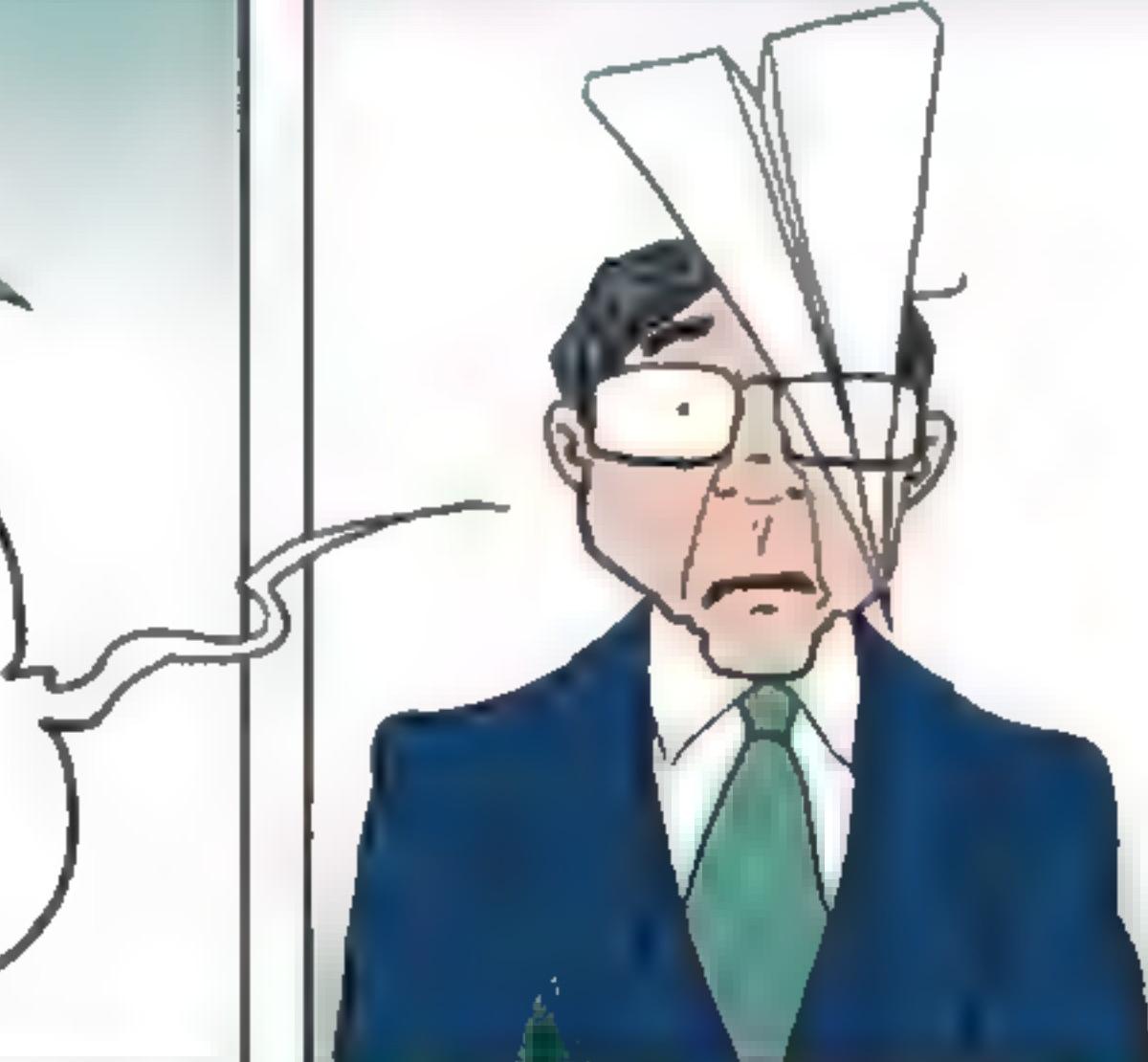
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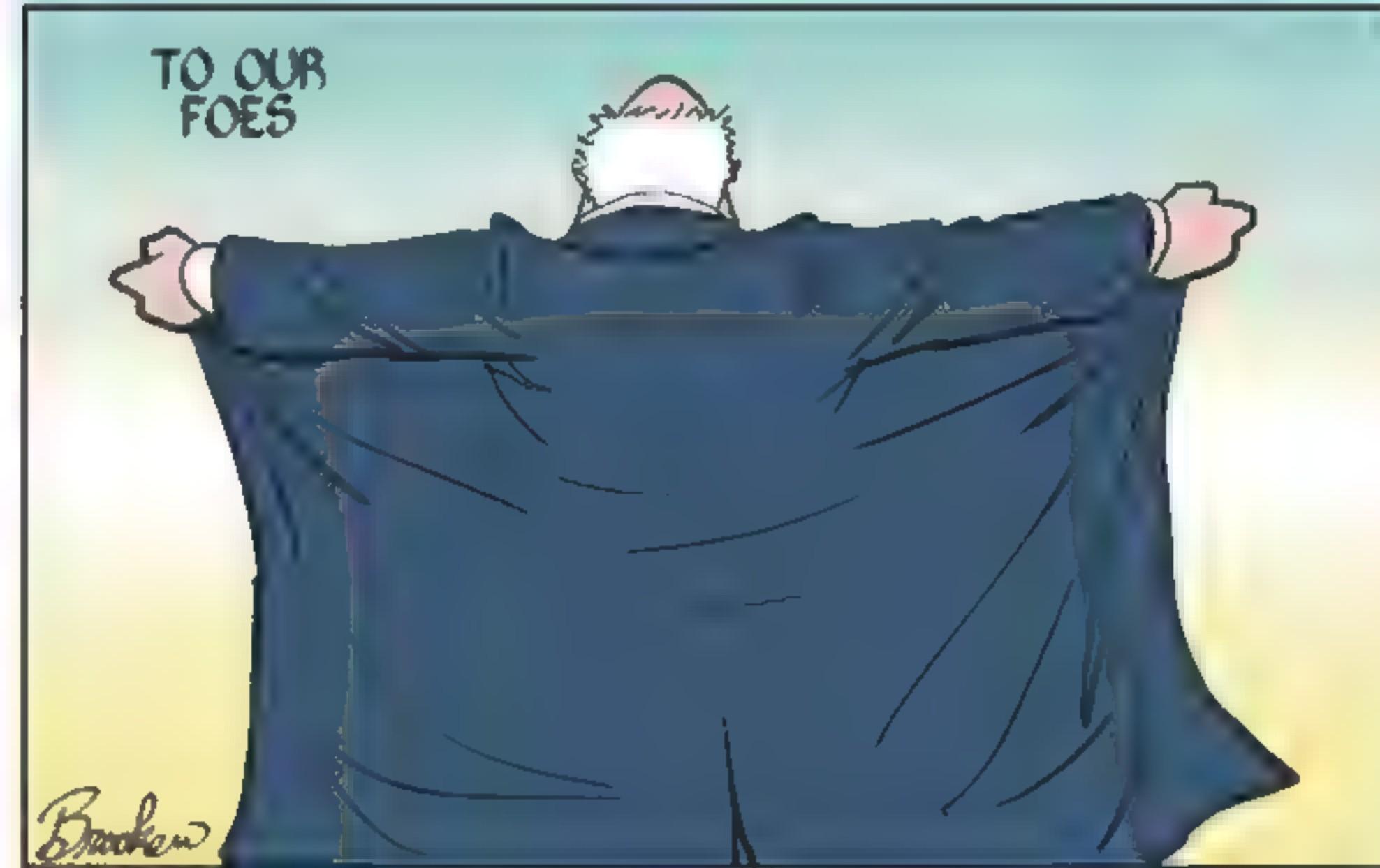
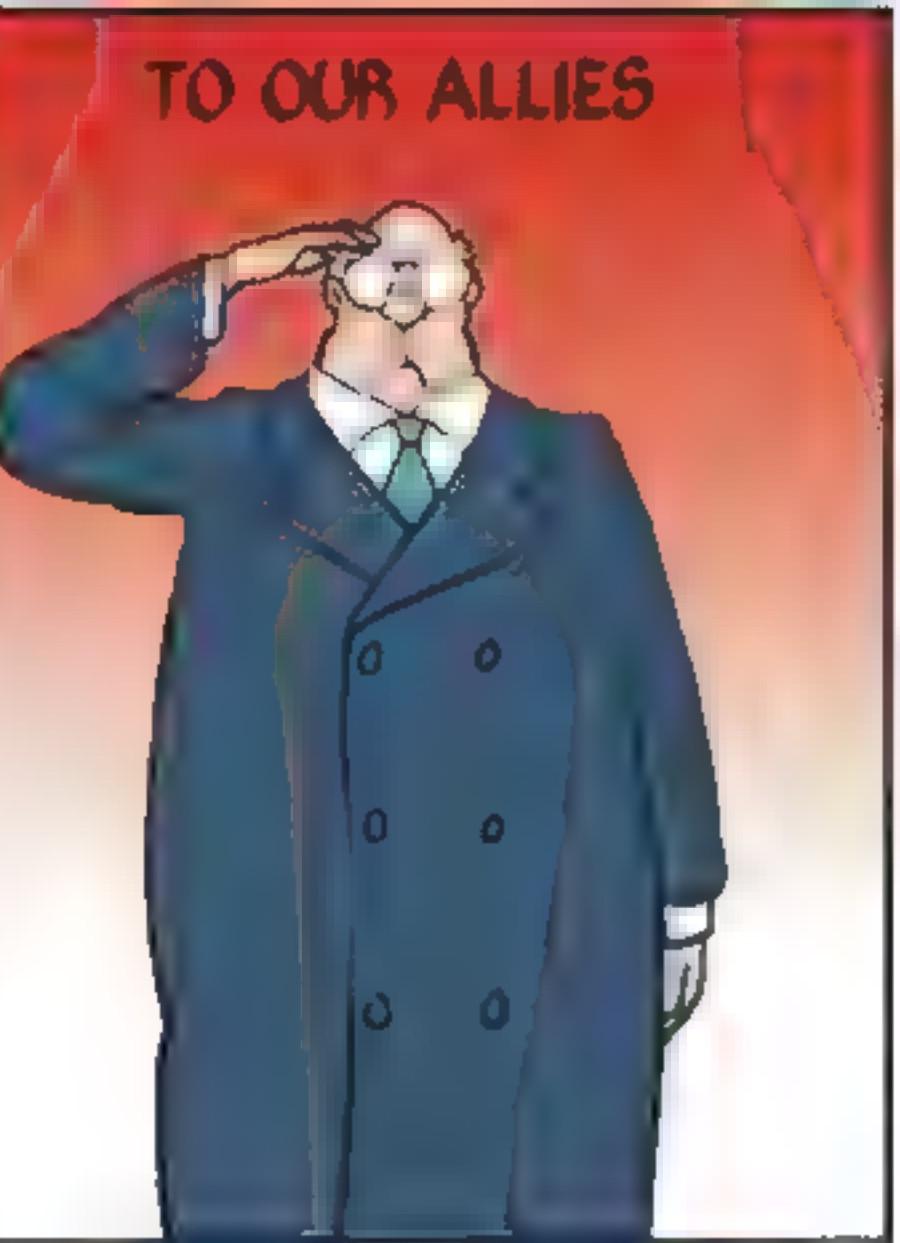
SHALL I
INFORM THE
HOUSE AND
SENATE OF
YOUR VETO,
O PRESIDING
ONE?



**THORAX:
SHADOW PRESIDENT**

**UNWAVERING
TOWARD
ALLY
AND
FOE**

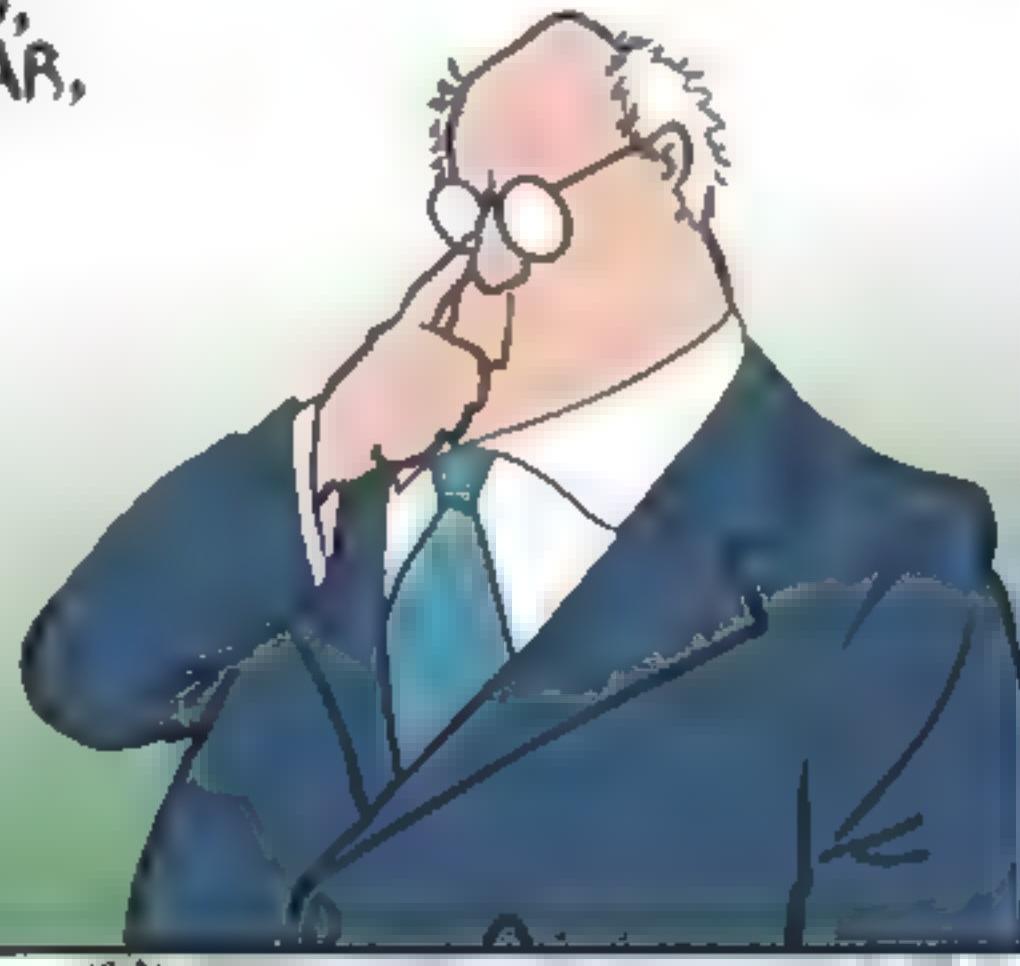
P-25 ©2013 Bruce W. Braden Cos. By Bruce W. Braden

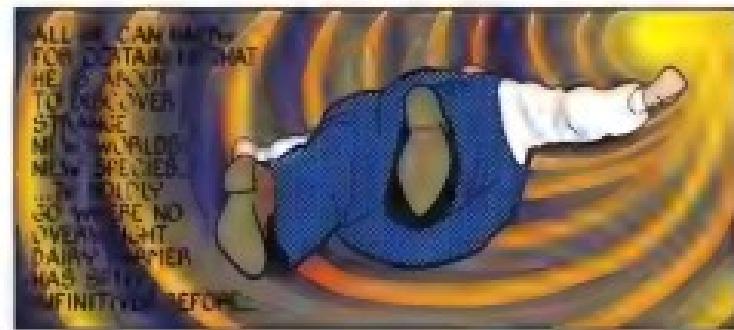
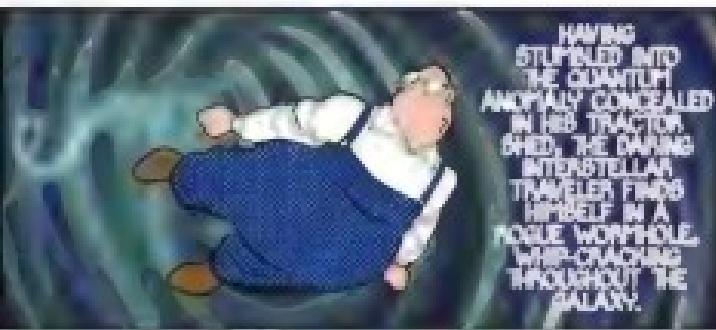


**VITAL
JOB SKILLS**

**THORAX:
SHADOW PRESIDENT**

**CAN MAKE OFF-THE-CUFF
HUMOROUS REMARKS,
OR WIPE AWAY A TEAR,
AIDED BY A SINGLE
TELEPROMPTER.**





THORAX:
SHADOW PRESIDENT

BATTLEFIELD
EXPERIENCE

I FOUGHT WITH
DISTINCTION
AS WILLIAM BENDIX'S
STUNT DOUBLE IN
"WAKE ISLAND,"
"GUADALCANAL DIARY"
AND "A BELL FOR
ADANO."

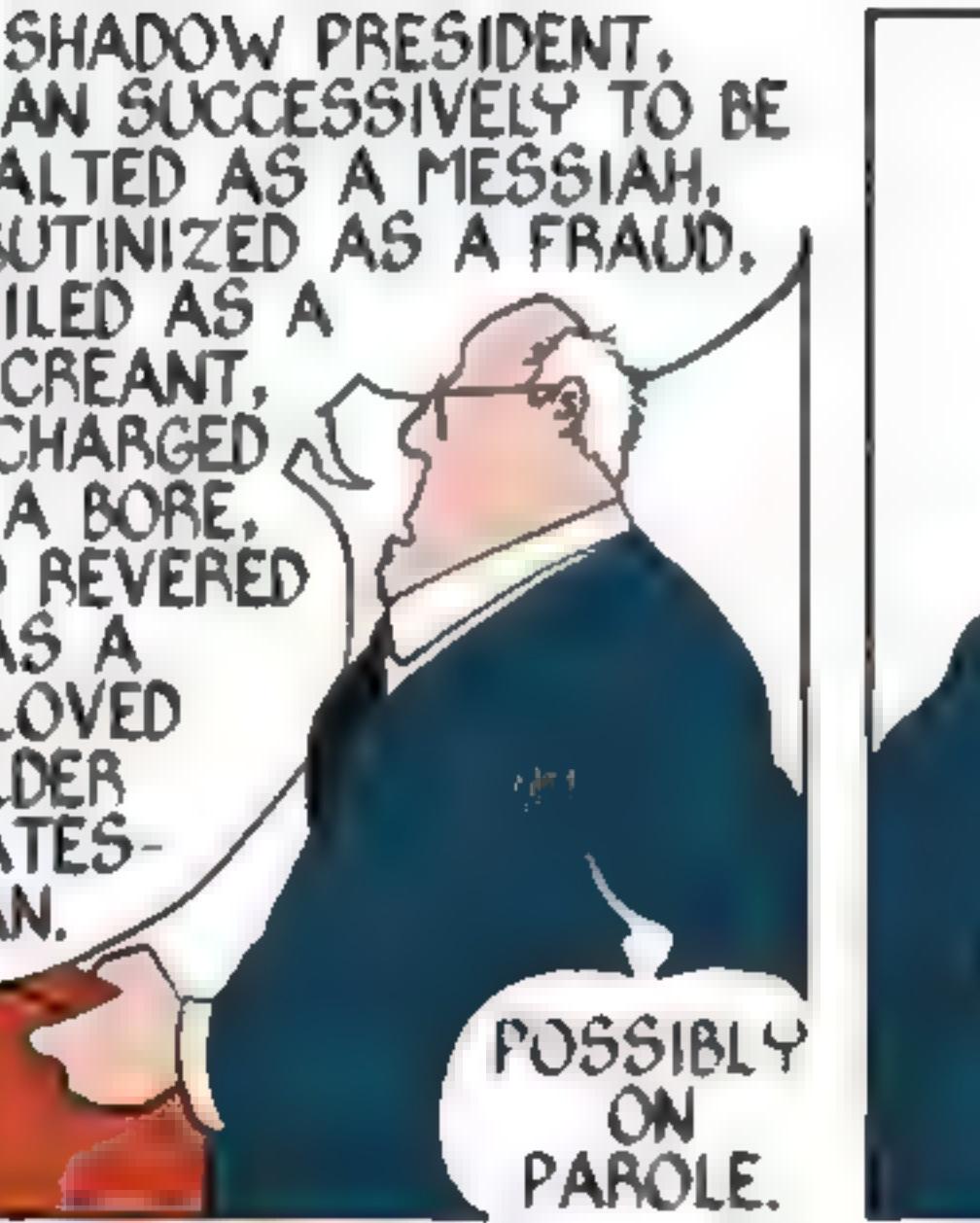
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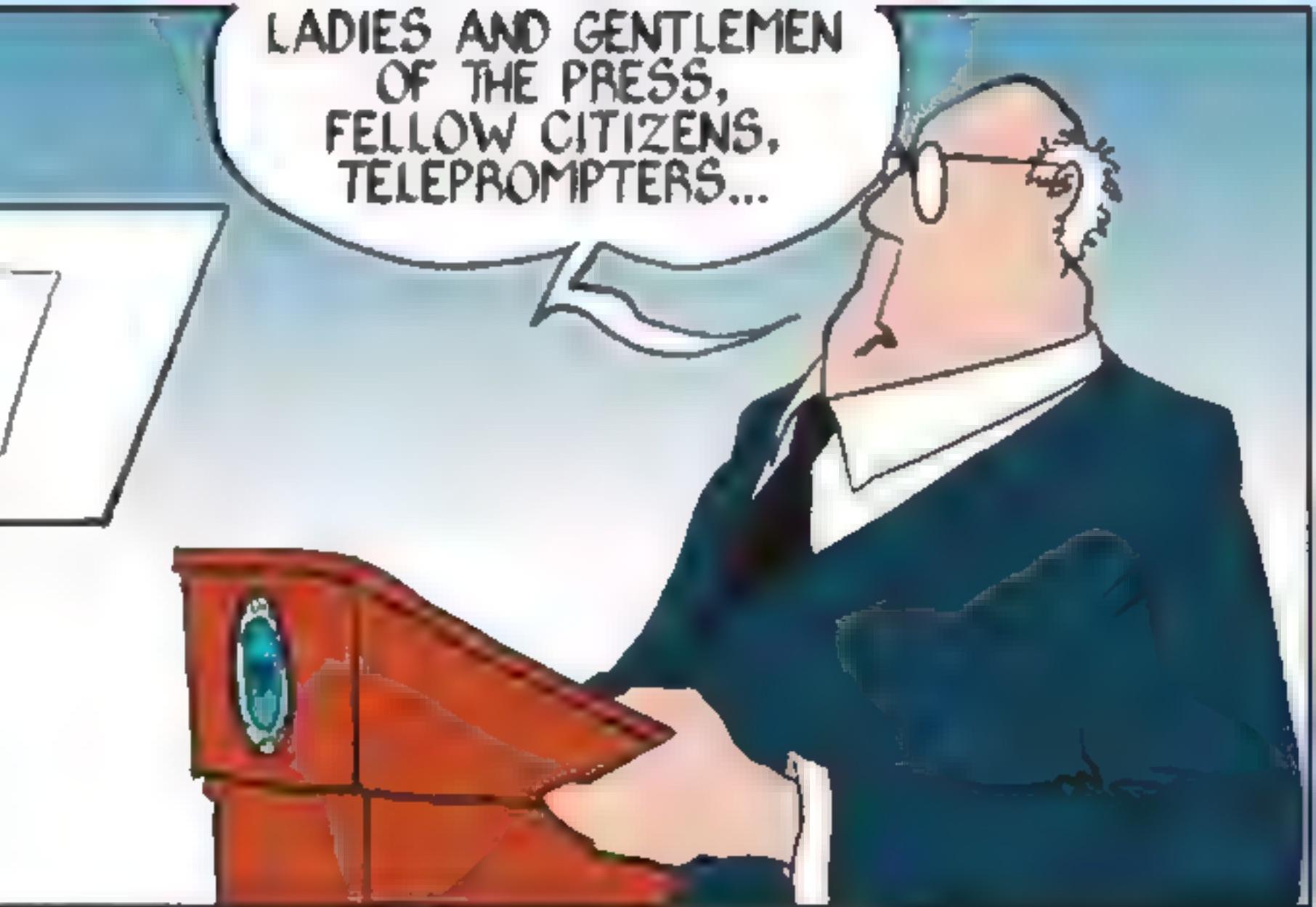
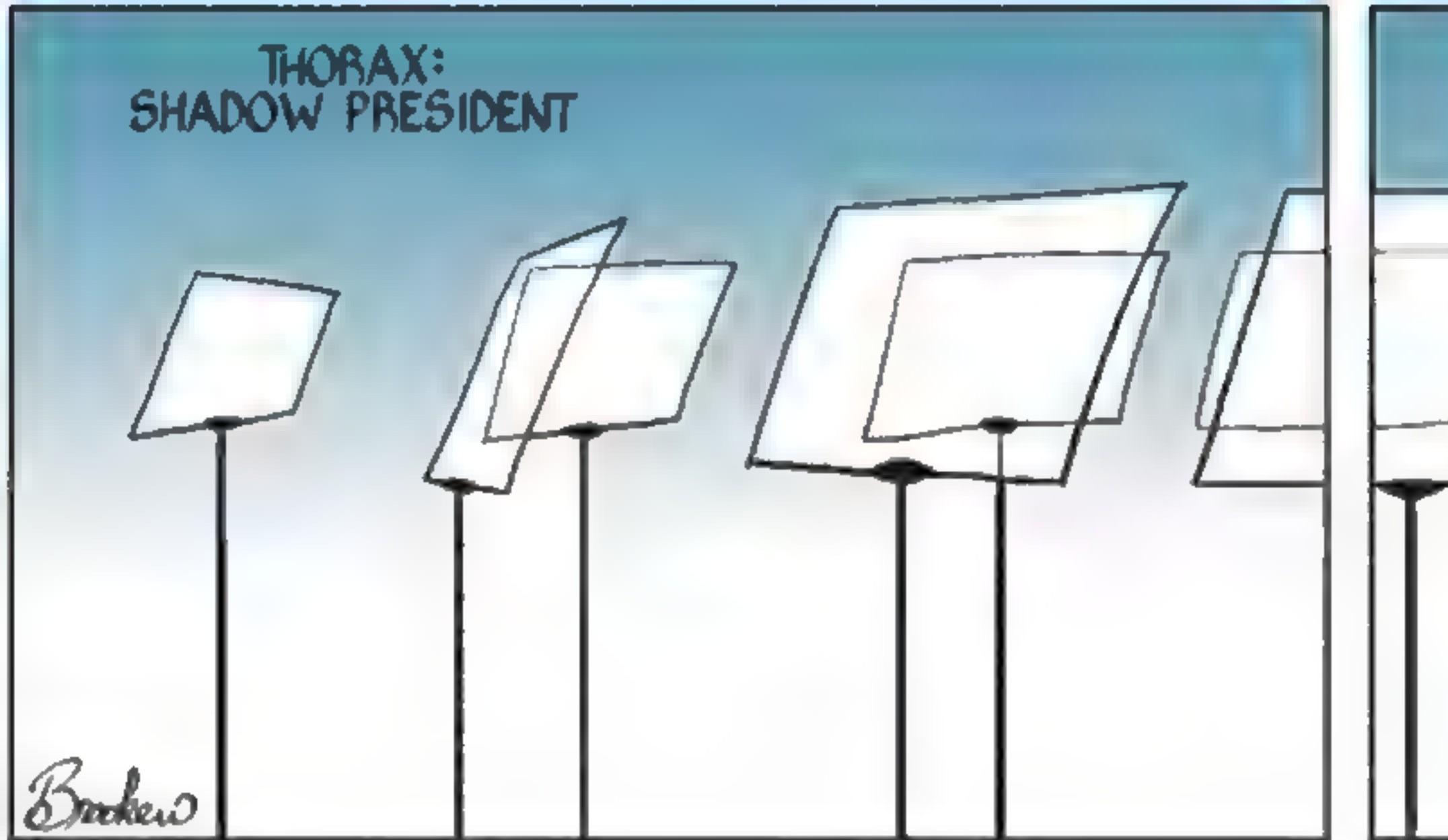
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WAR
MOVIES
ARE HELL.

THORAX: SHADOW PRESIDENT

MY
LEGACY

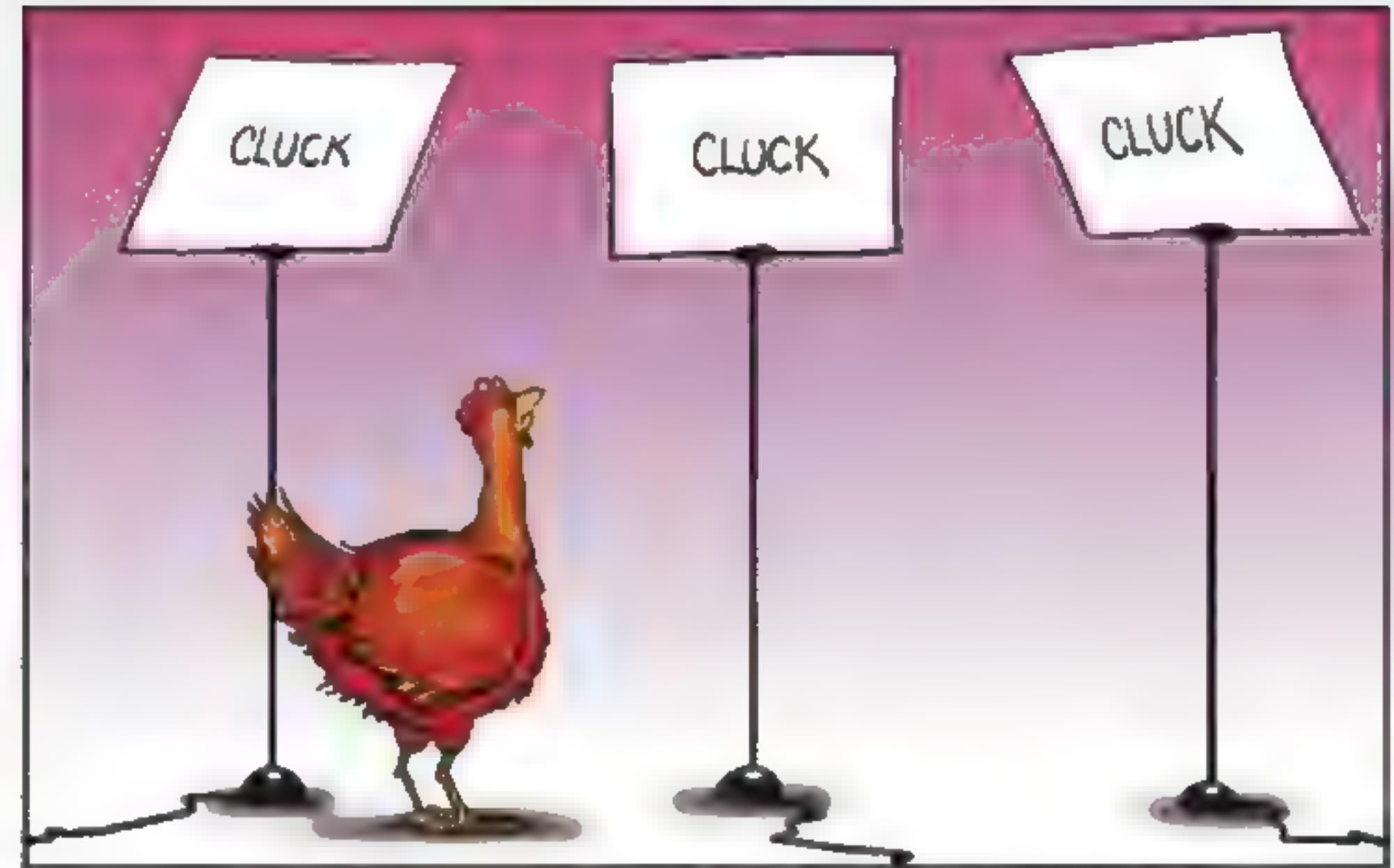


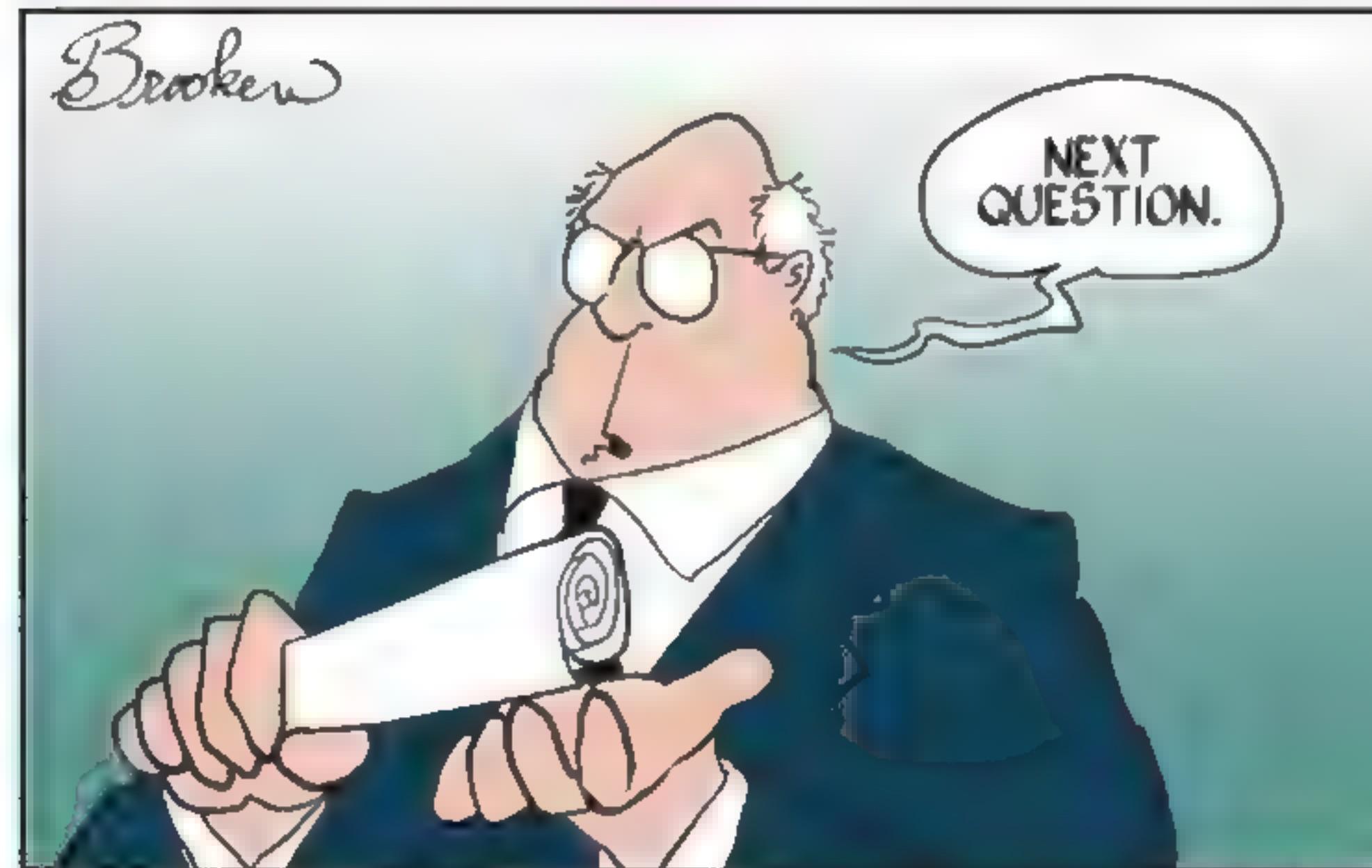
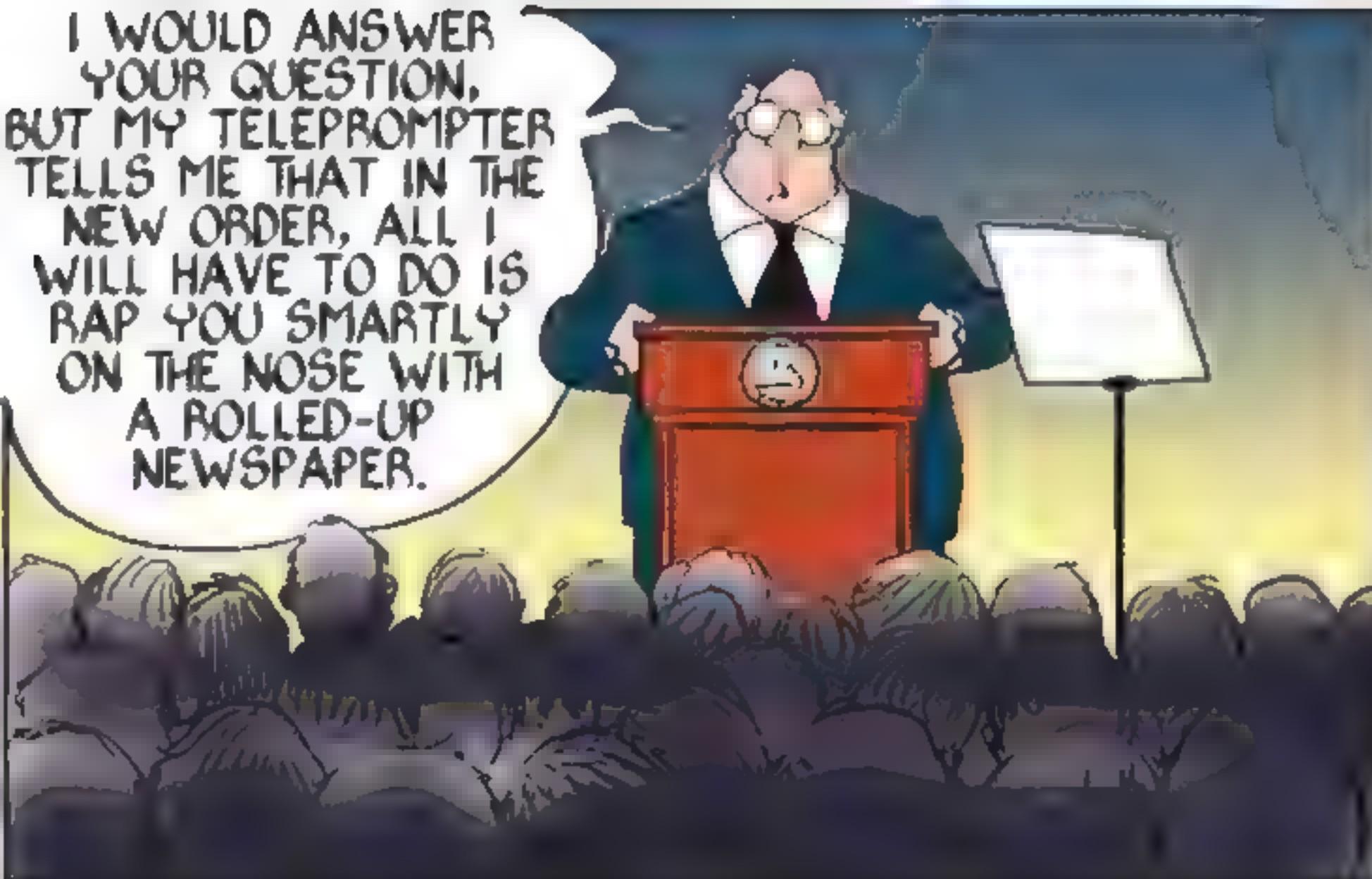


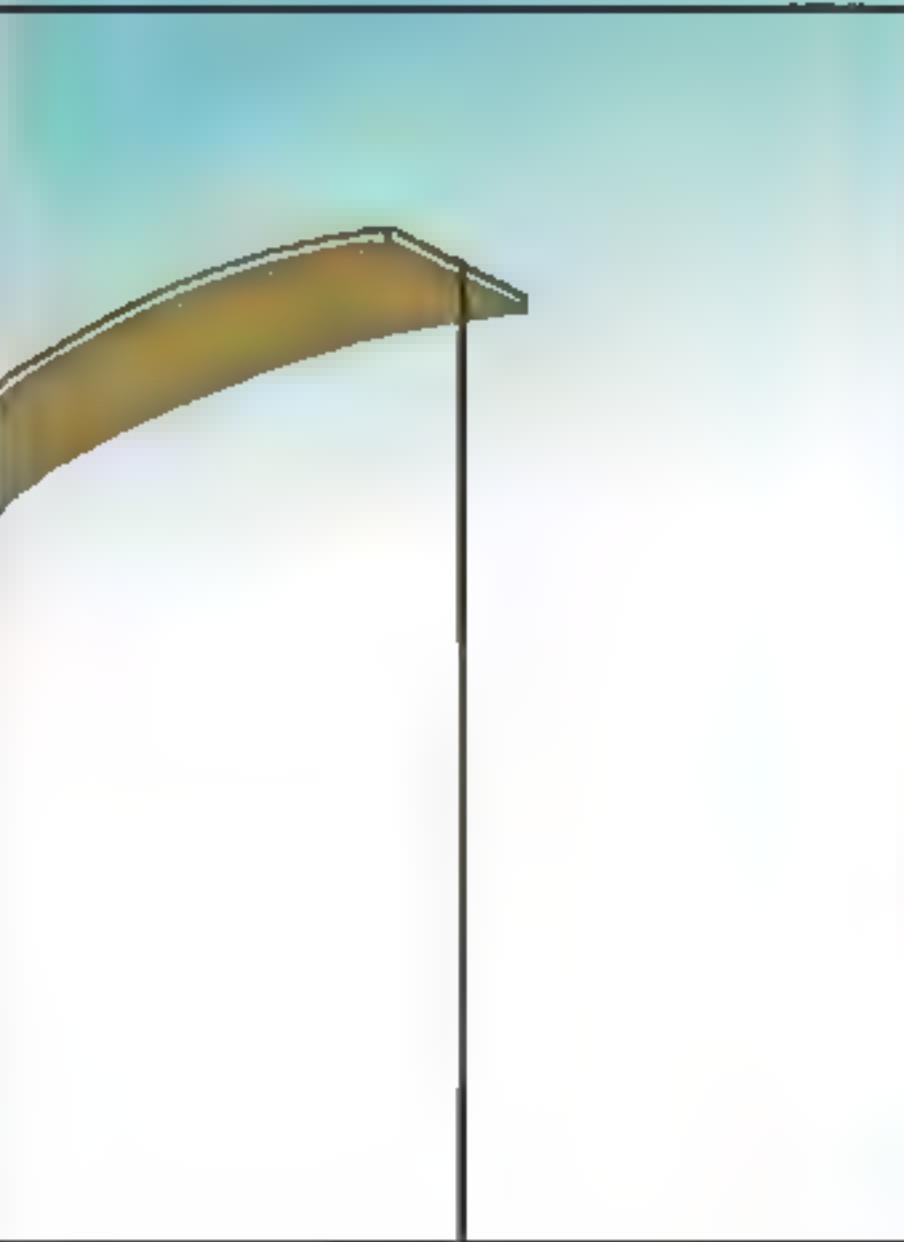
THORAX:
SHADOW
PRESIDENT

Beakend

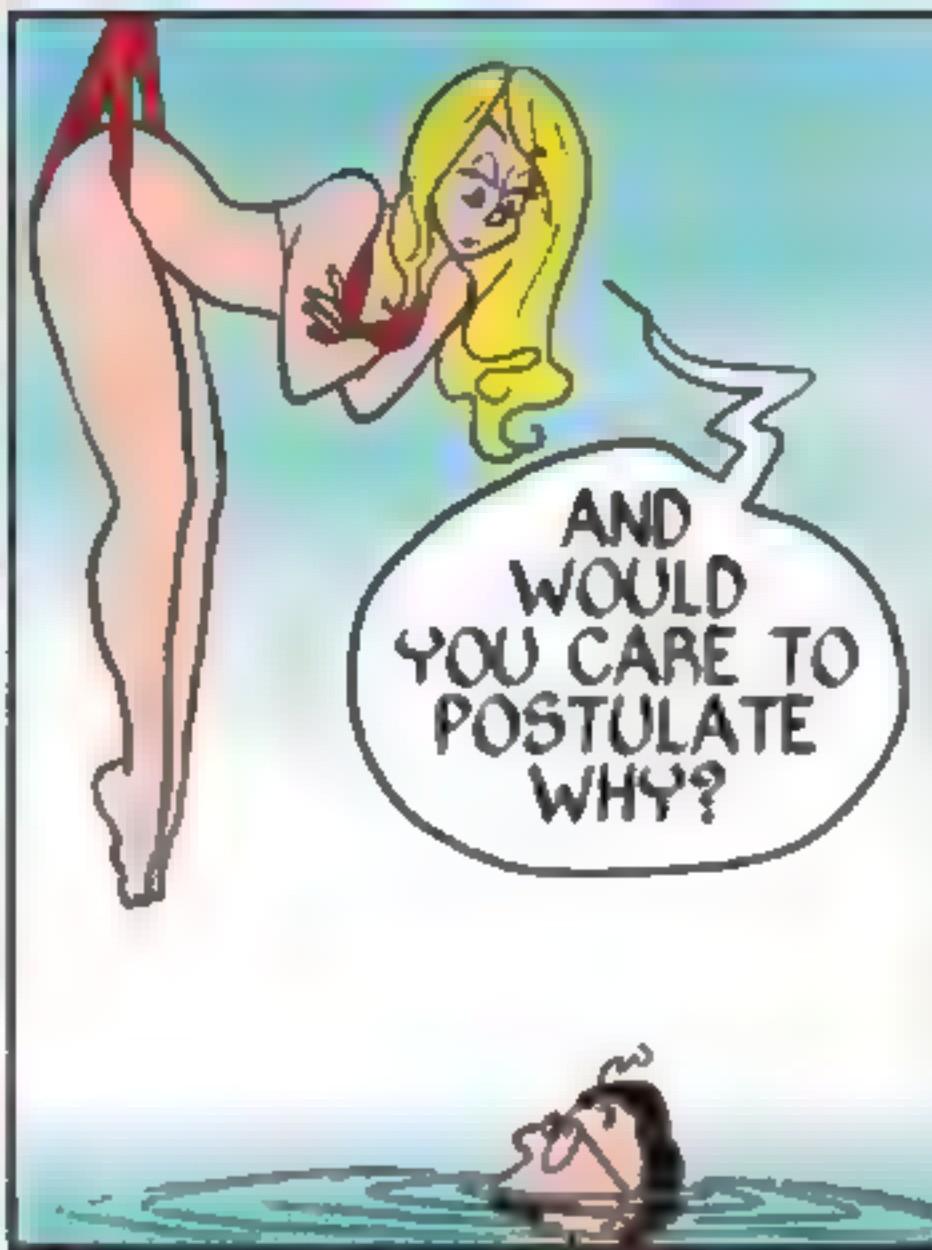
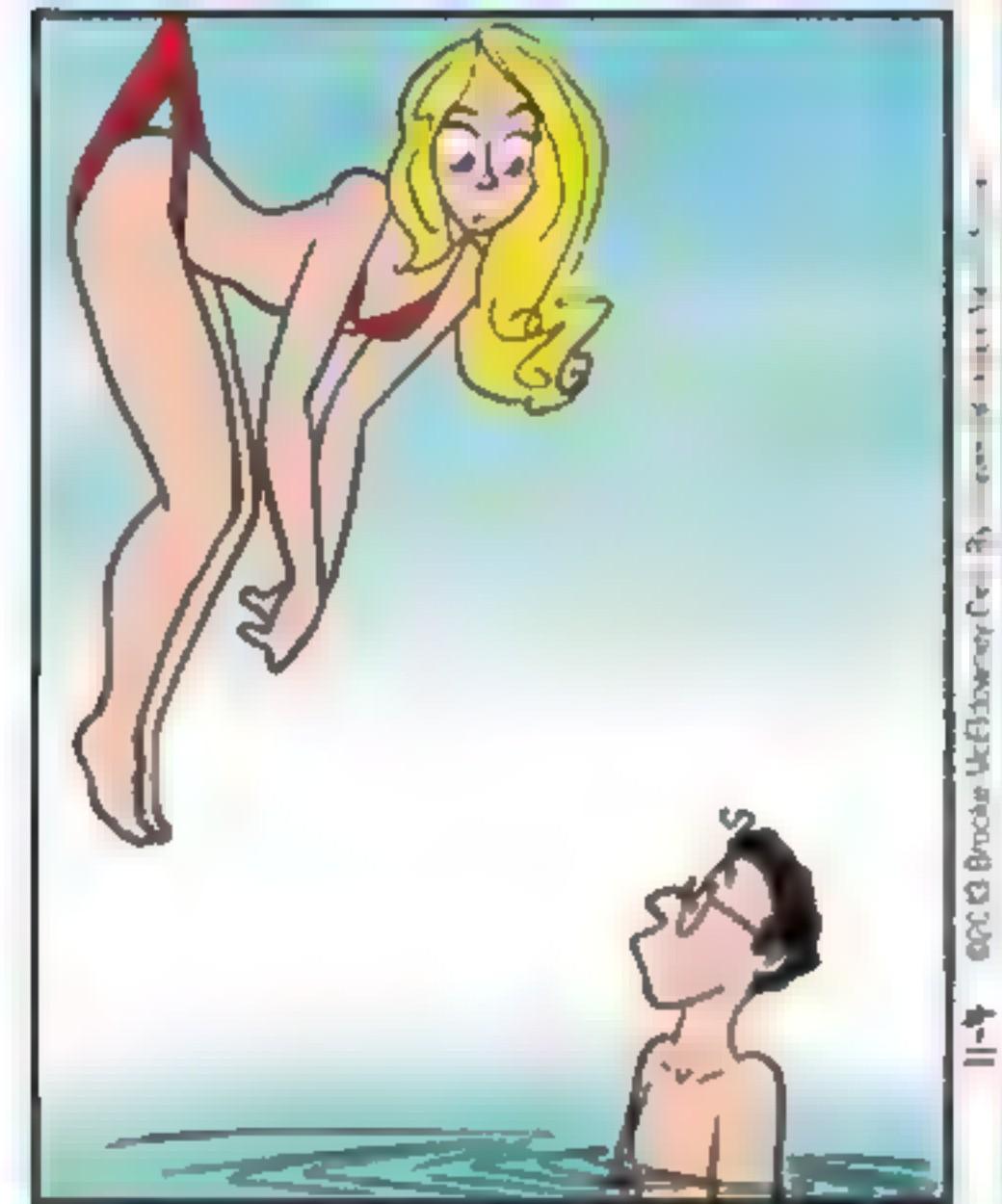
I BELIEVE WE WILL NOT
HAVE TRUE EQUALITY UNTIL
ALL OF US ON THE PLANET
ENJOY THE SAME
ADVANTAGES.

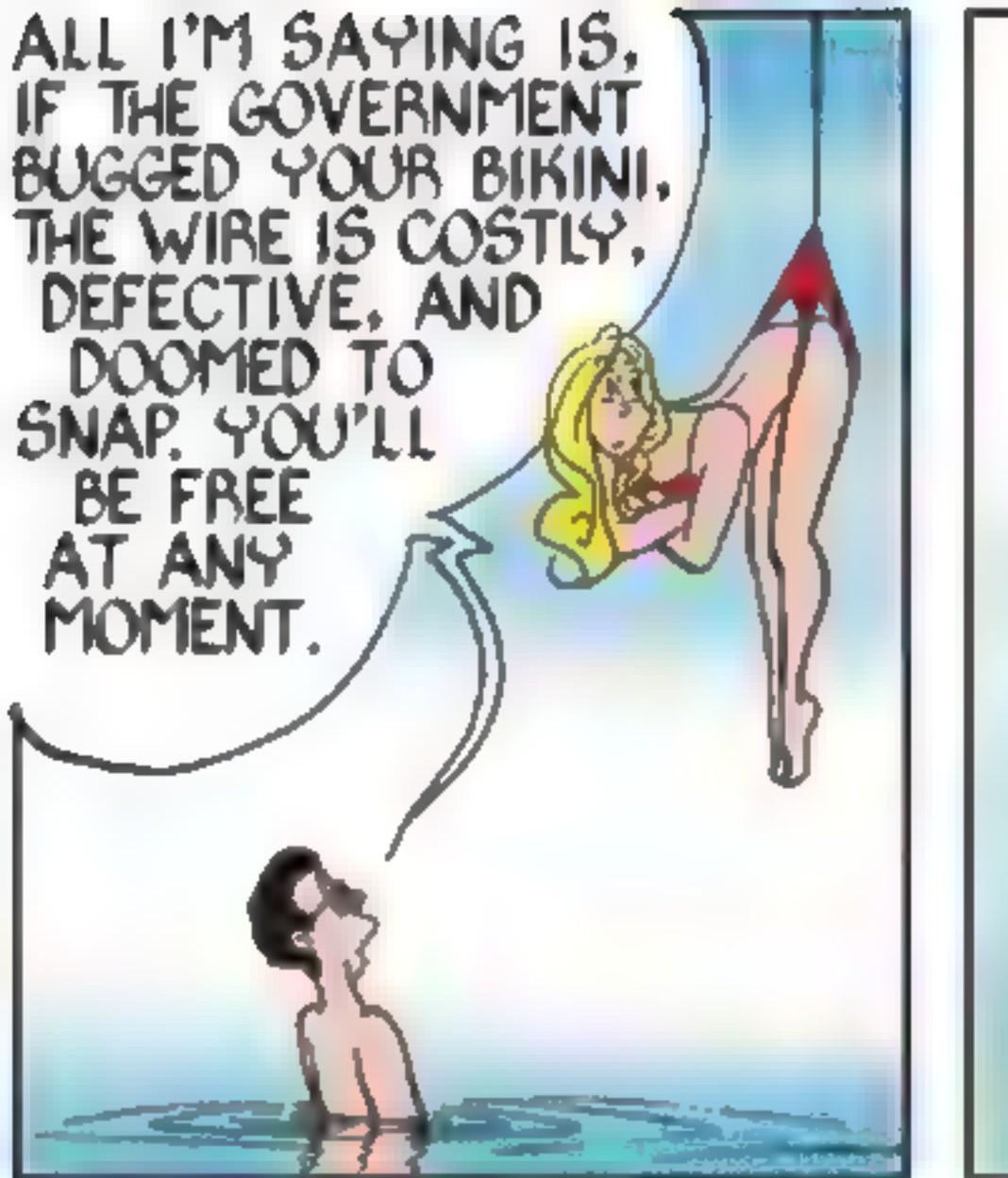


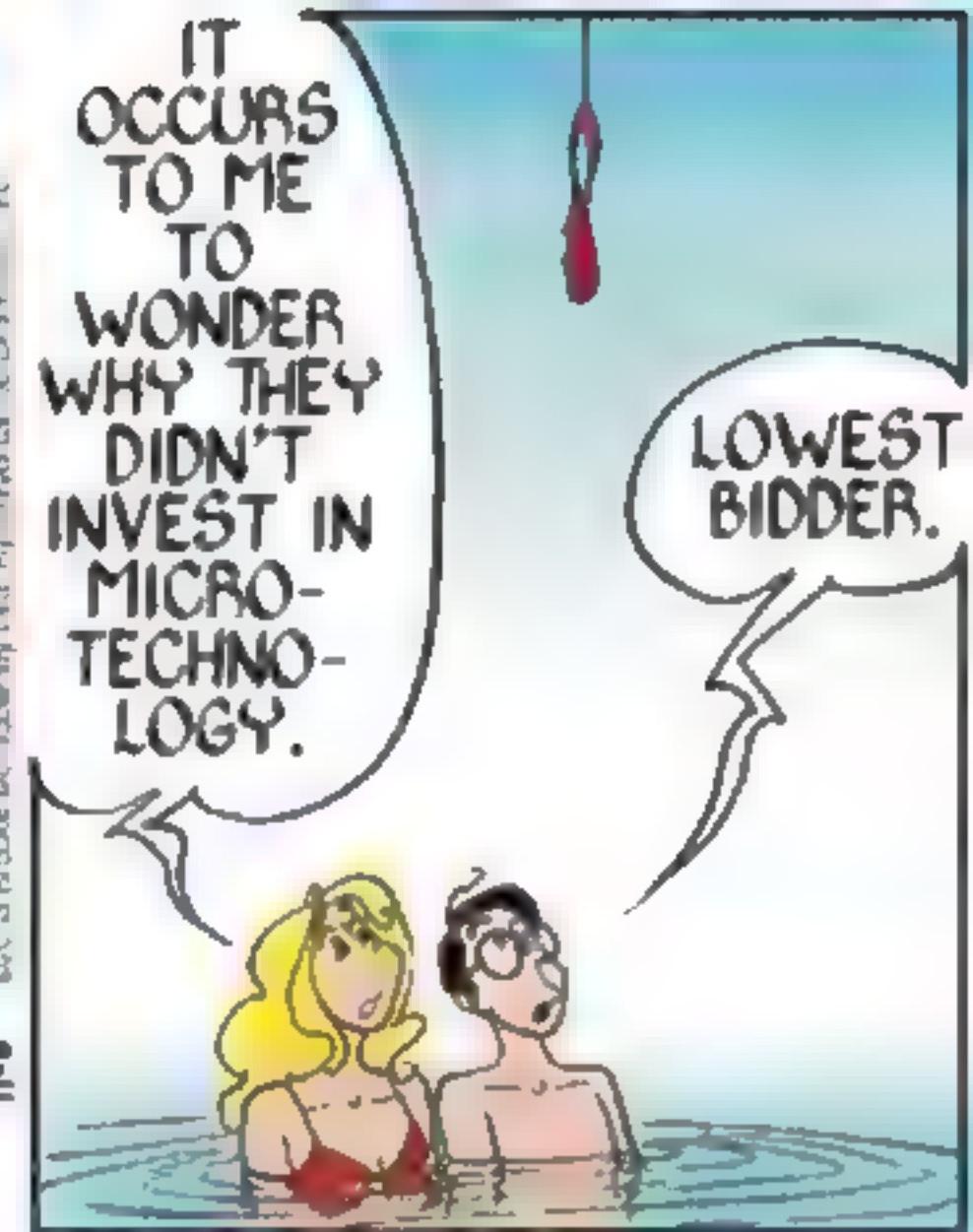
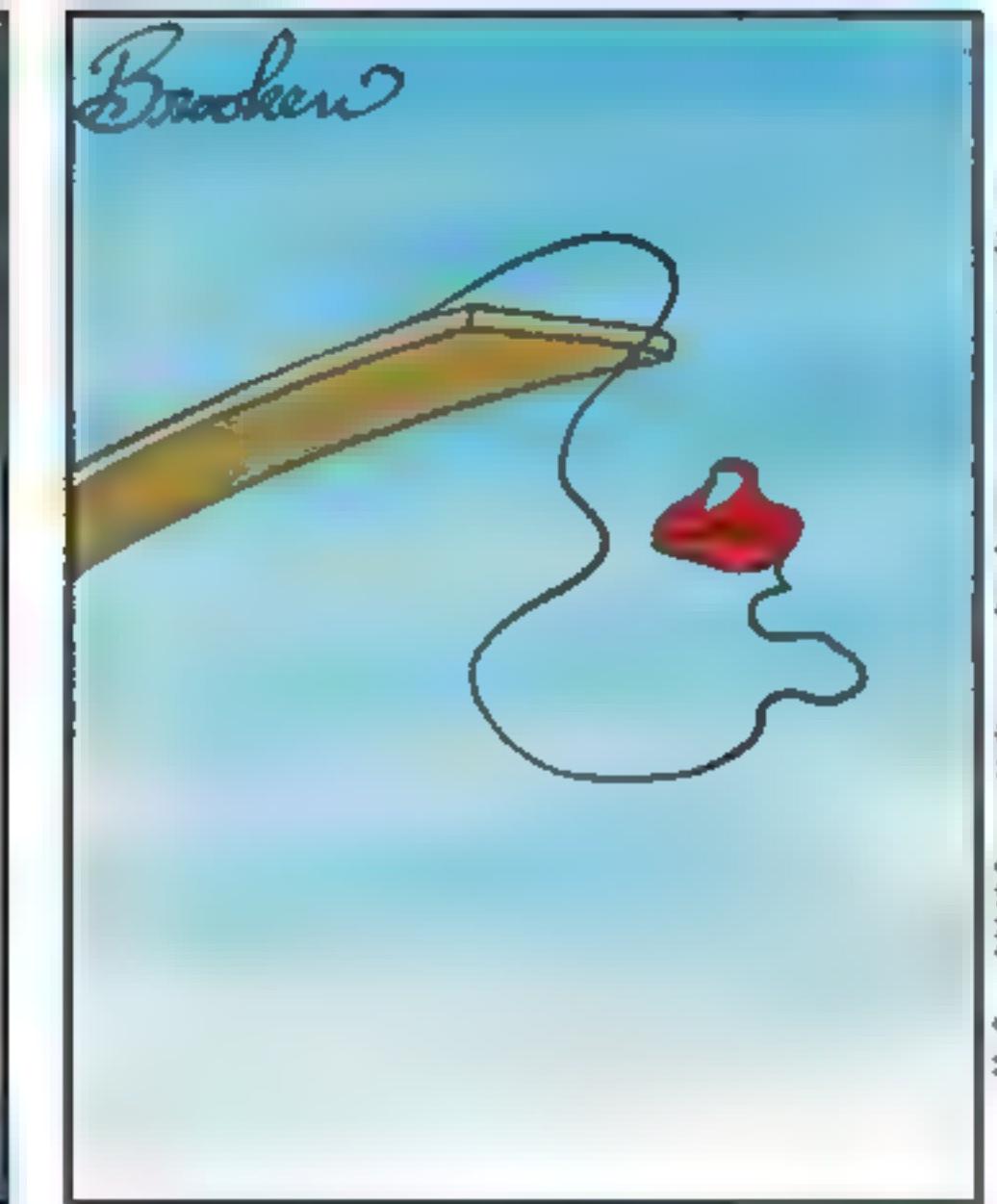


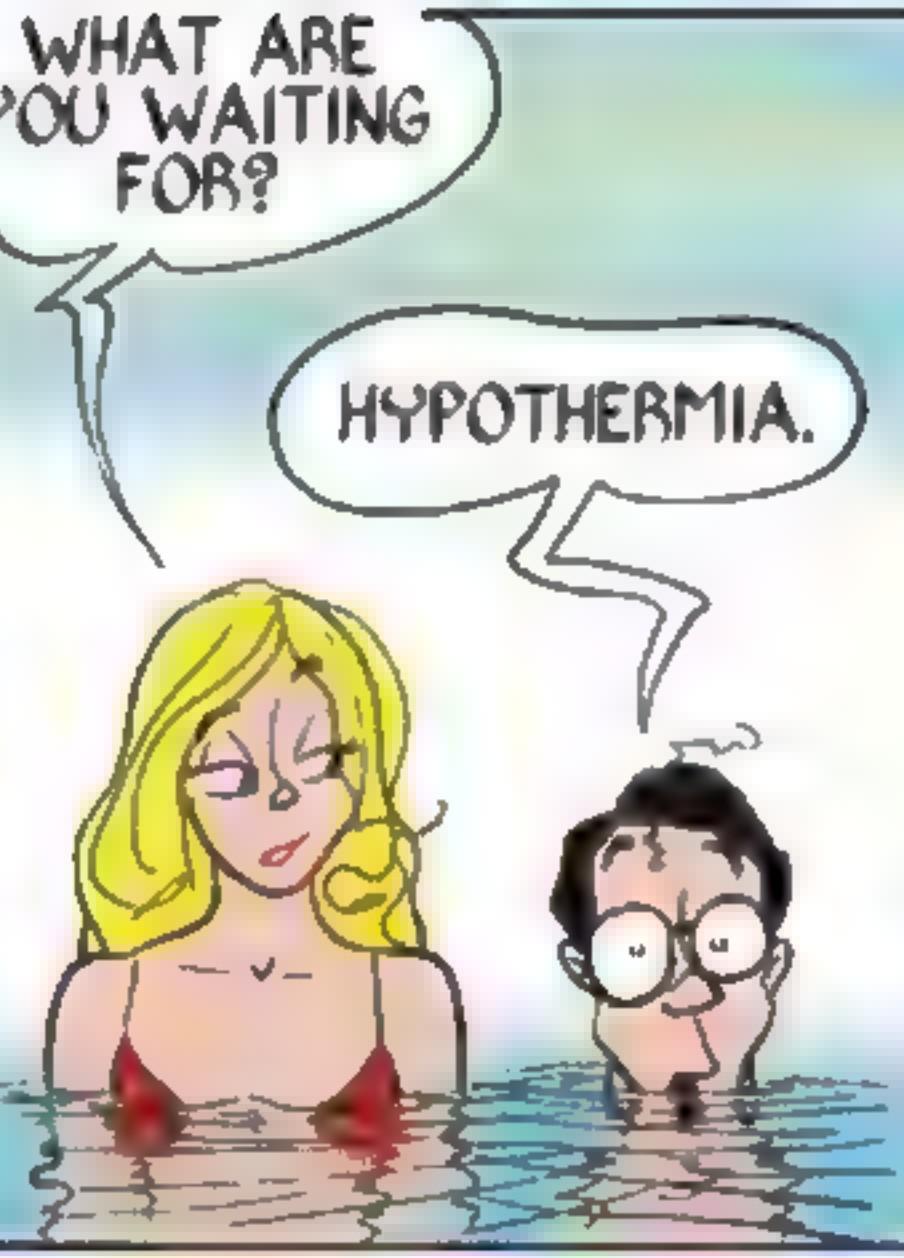
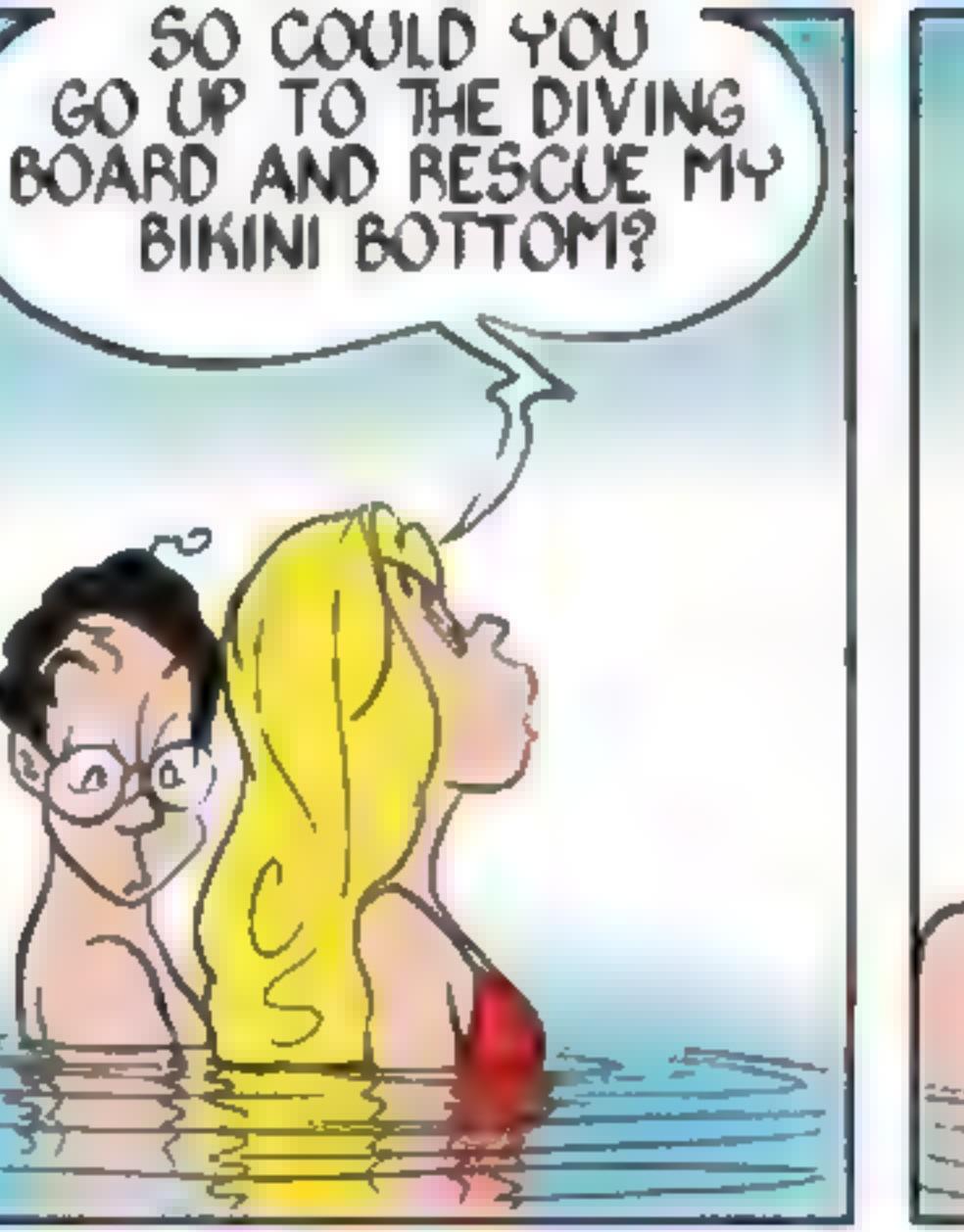
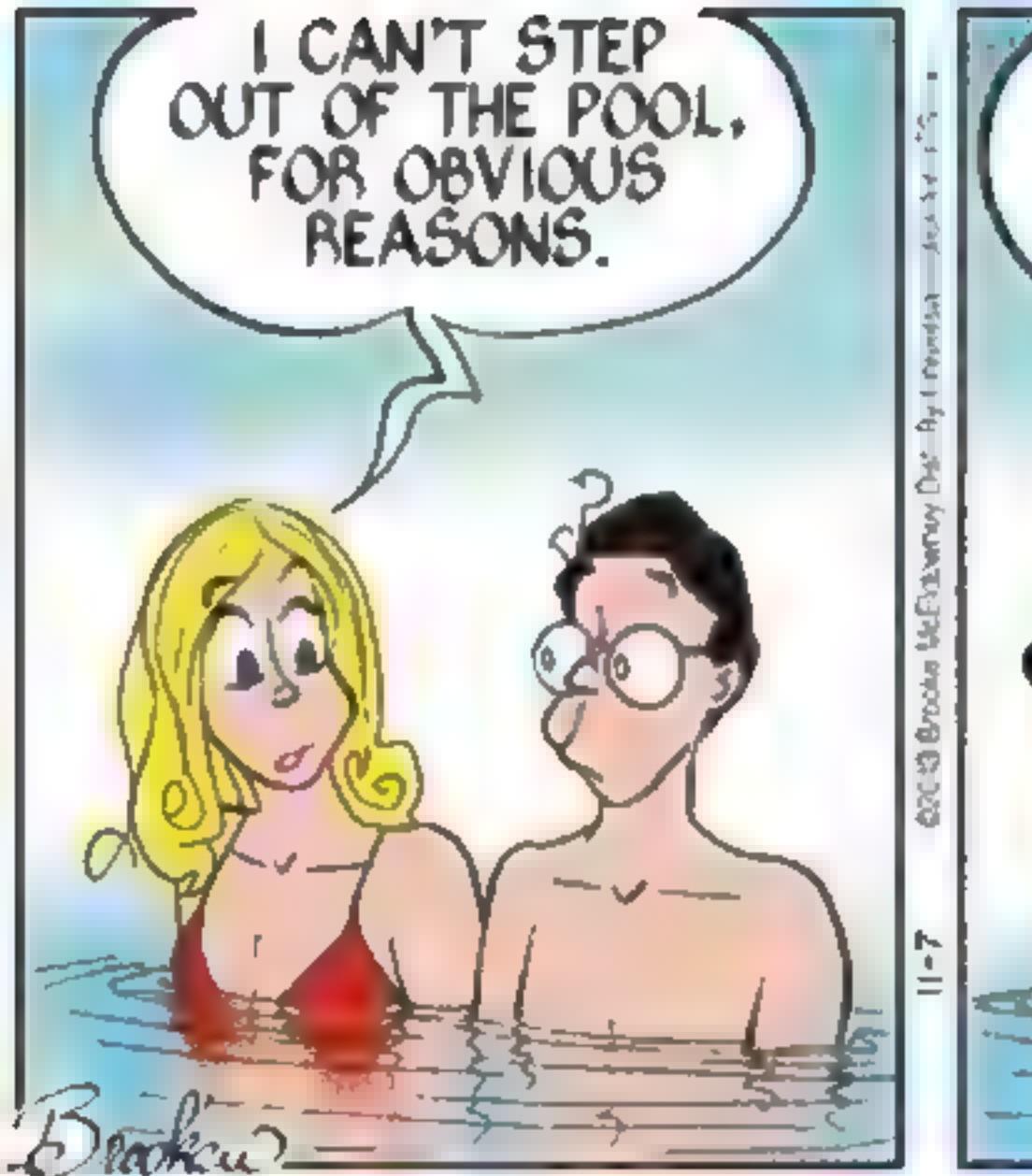












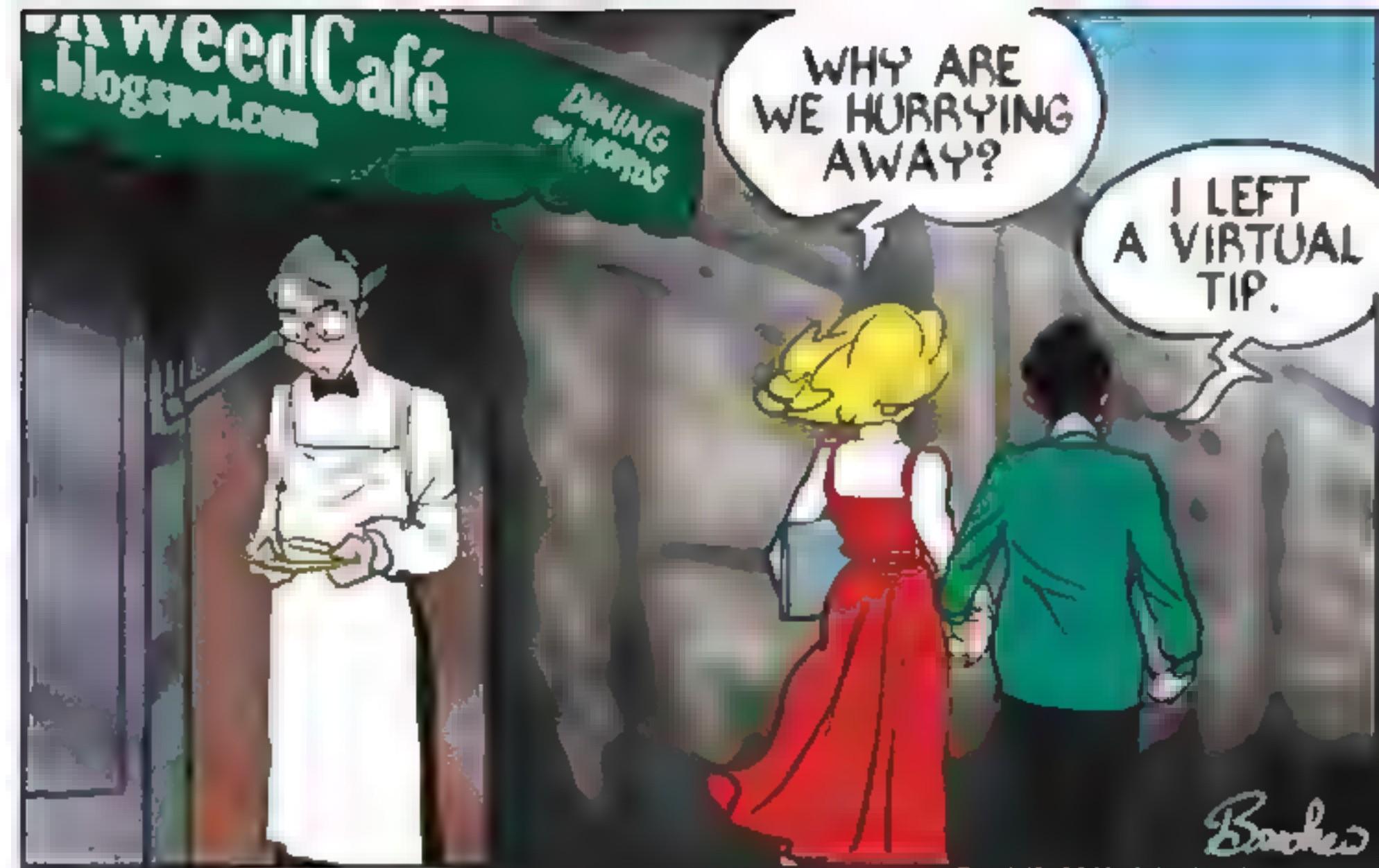
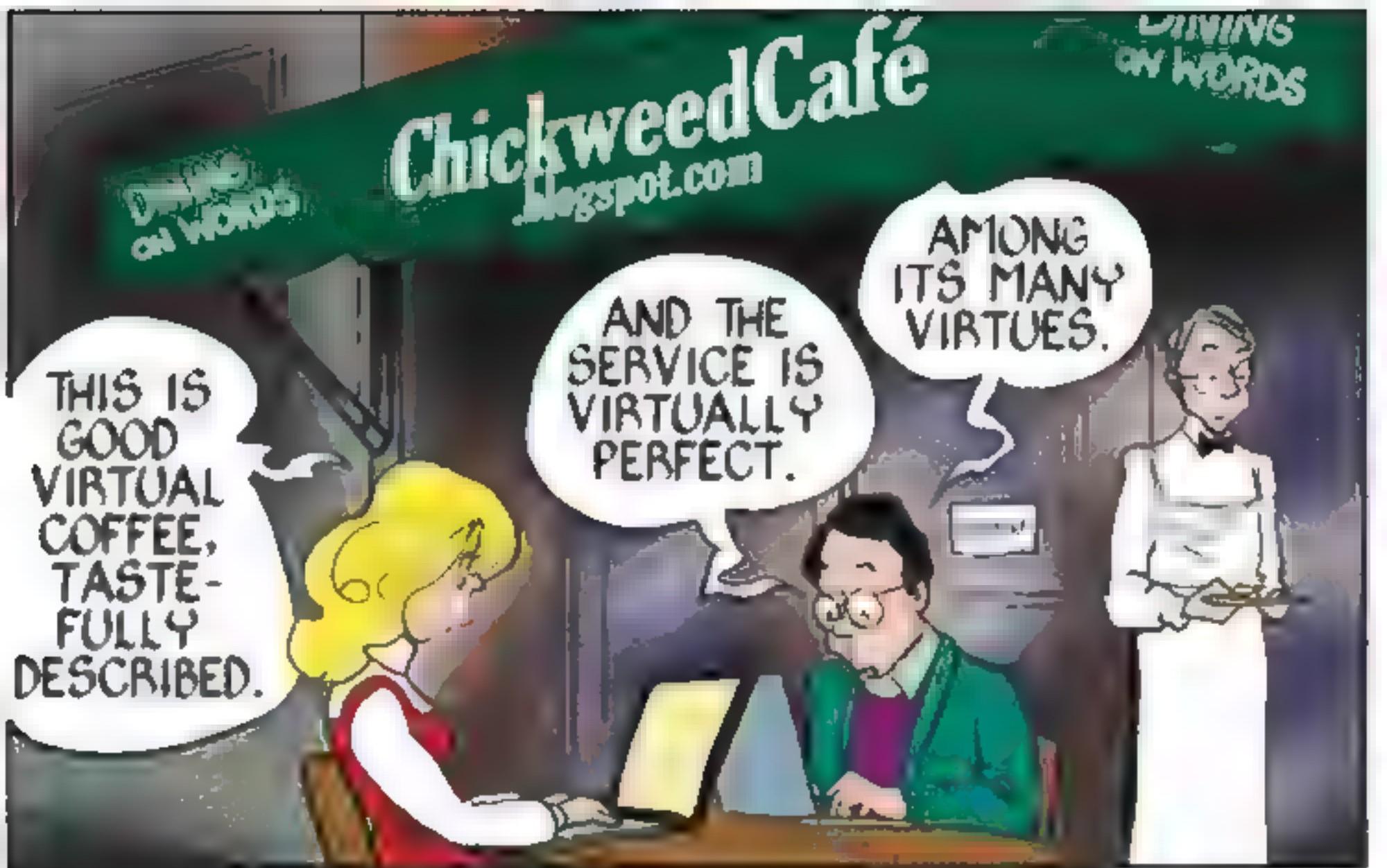
IT WAS
NICE OF
THOSE
MEN
FROM THE
CREEPY
NATIONAL
FURTIVE-
NESS
AGENCY
TO COME
AND
RETRIEVE
YOUR
WIRE-
TAPPED
BIKINI
BOTTOM.

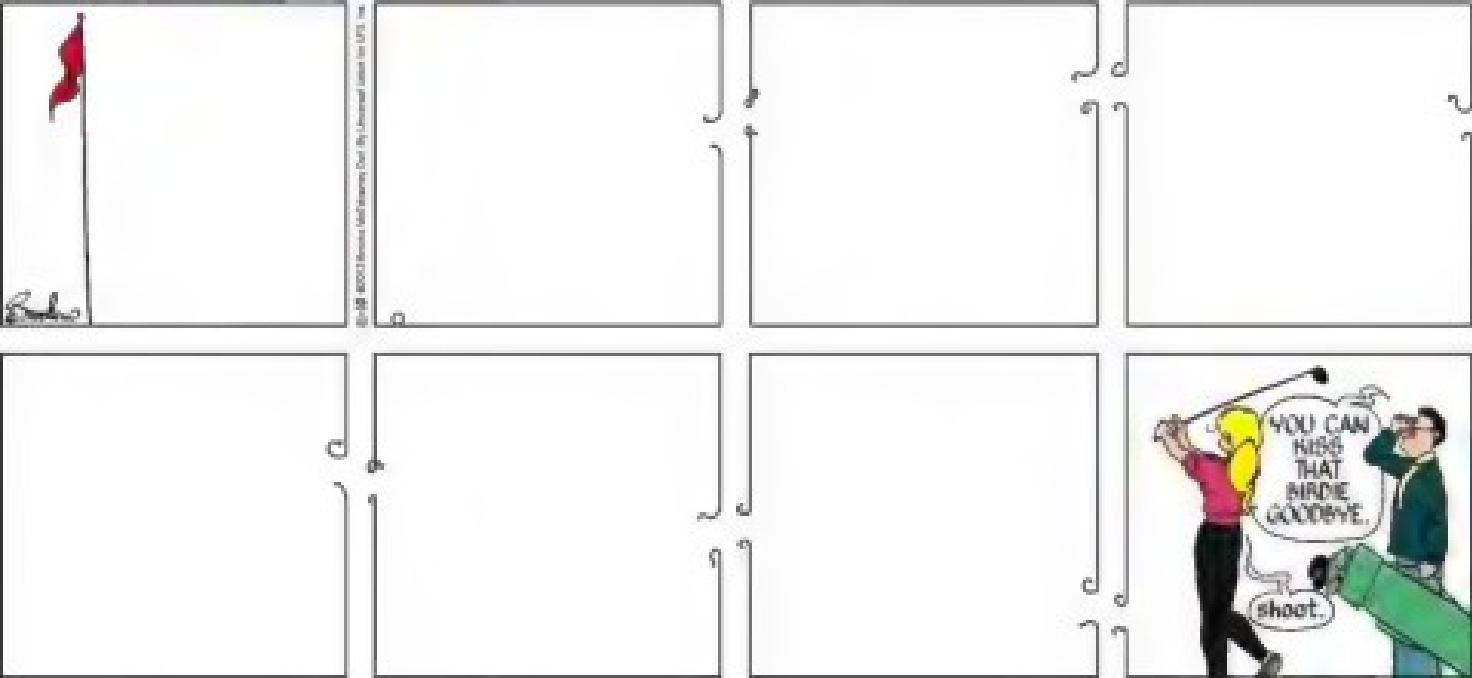


IT ALSO
WOULD HAVE BEEN
NICE HAD THEY
DEACTIVATED
THE STEALTH
TRACKING
DEVICE.

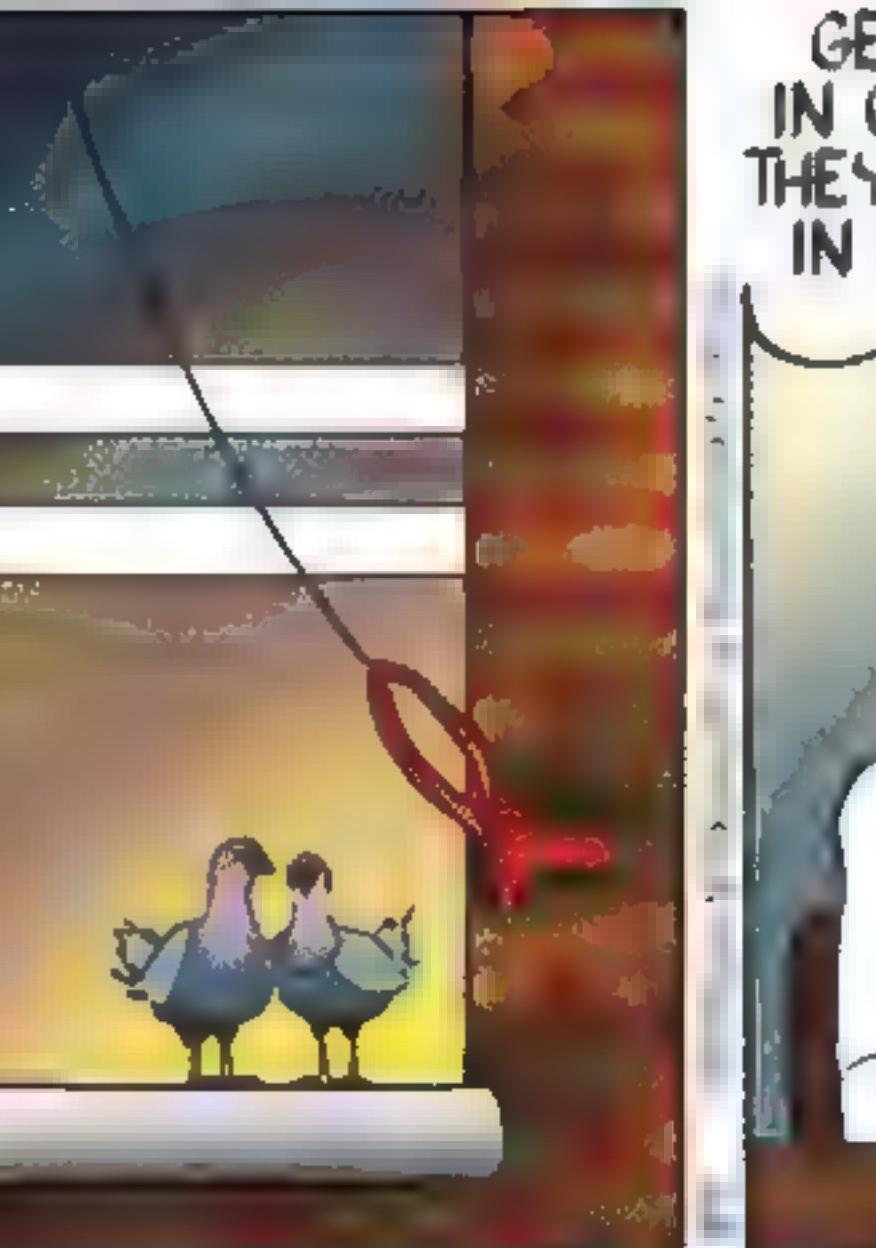
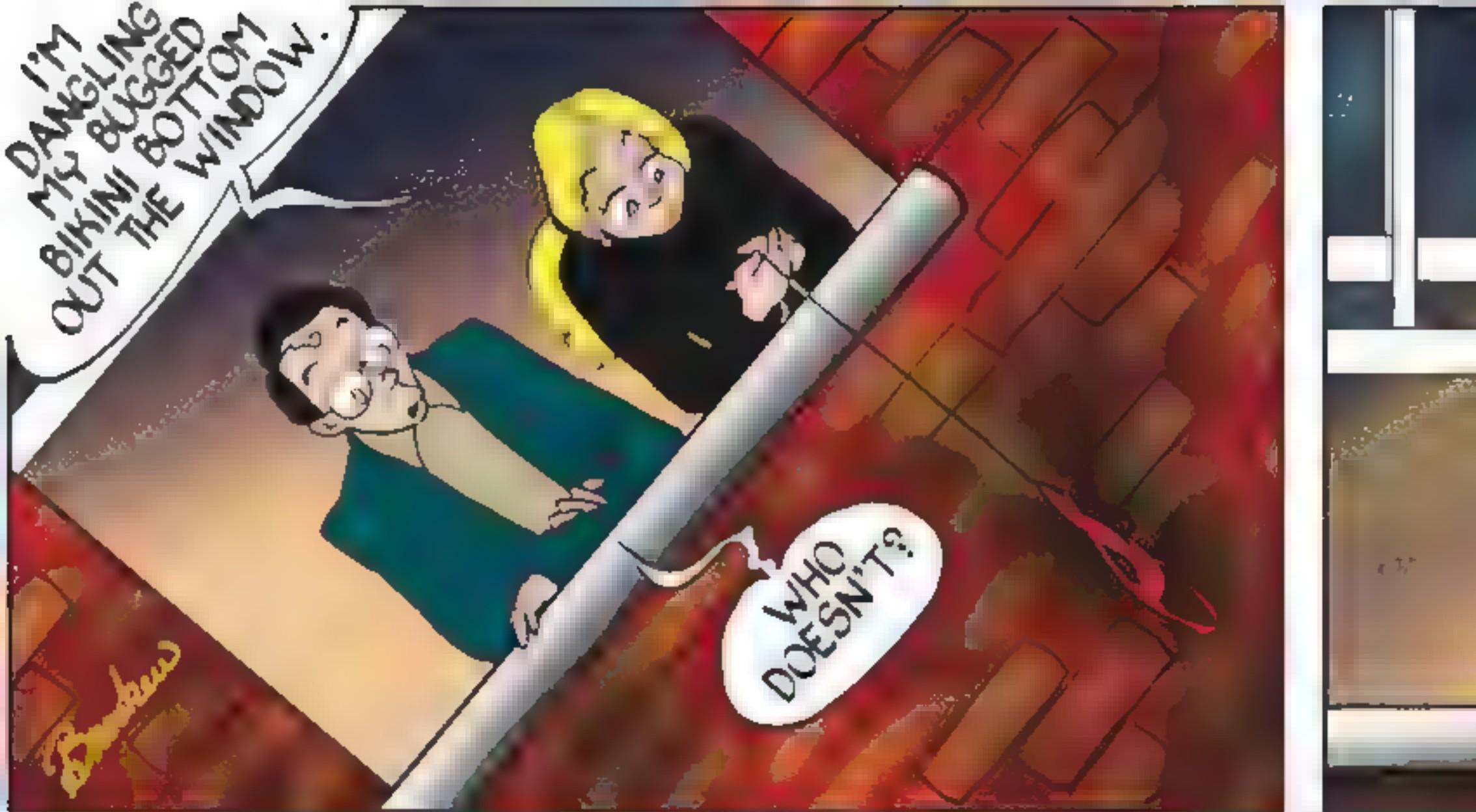
Brookes

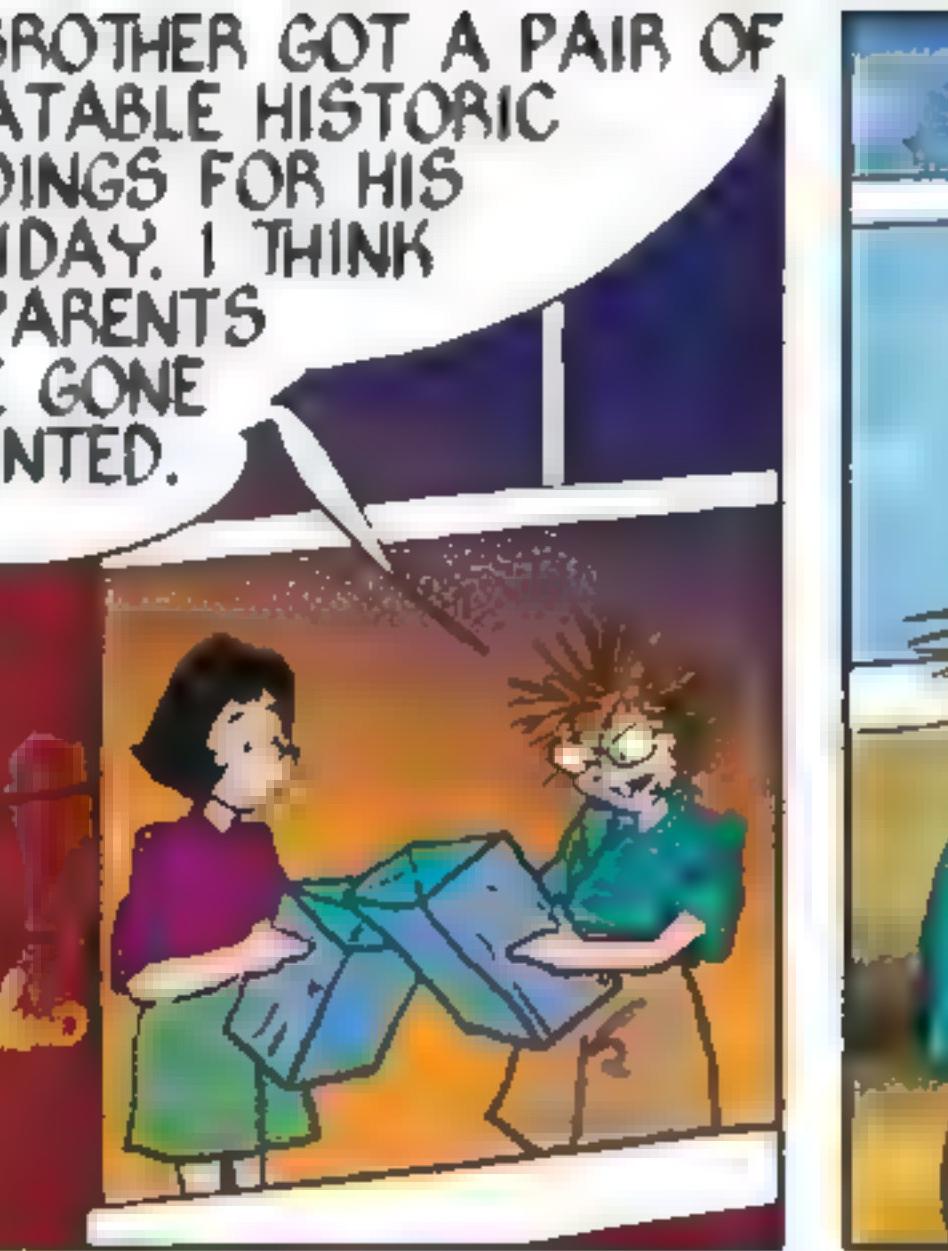
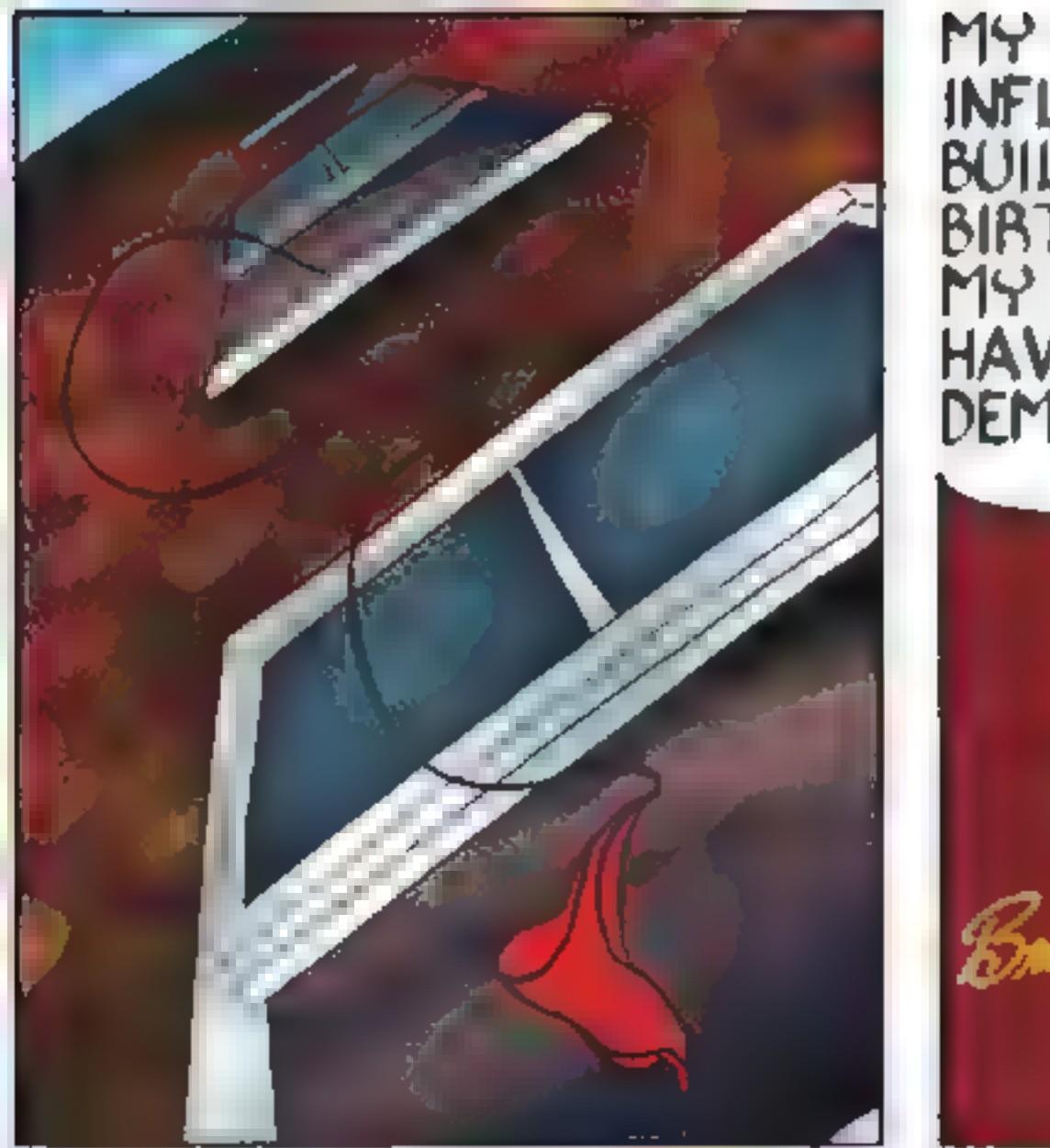


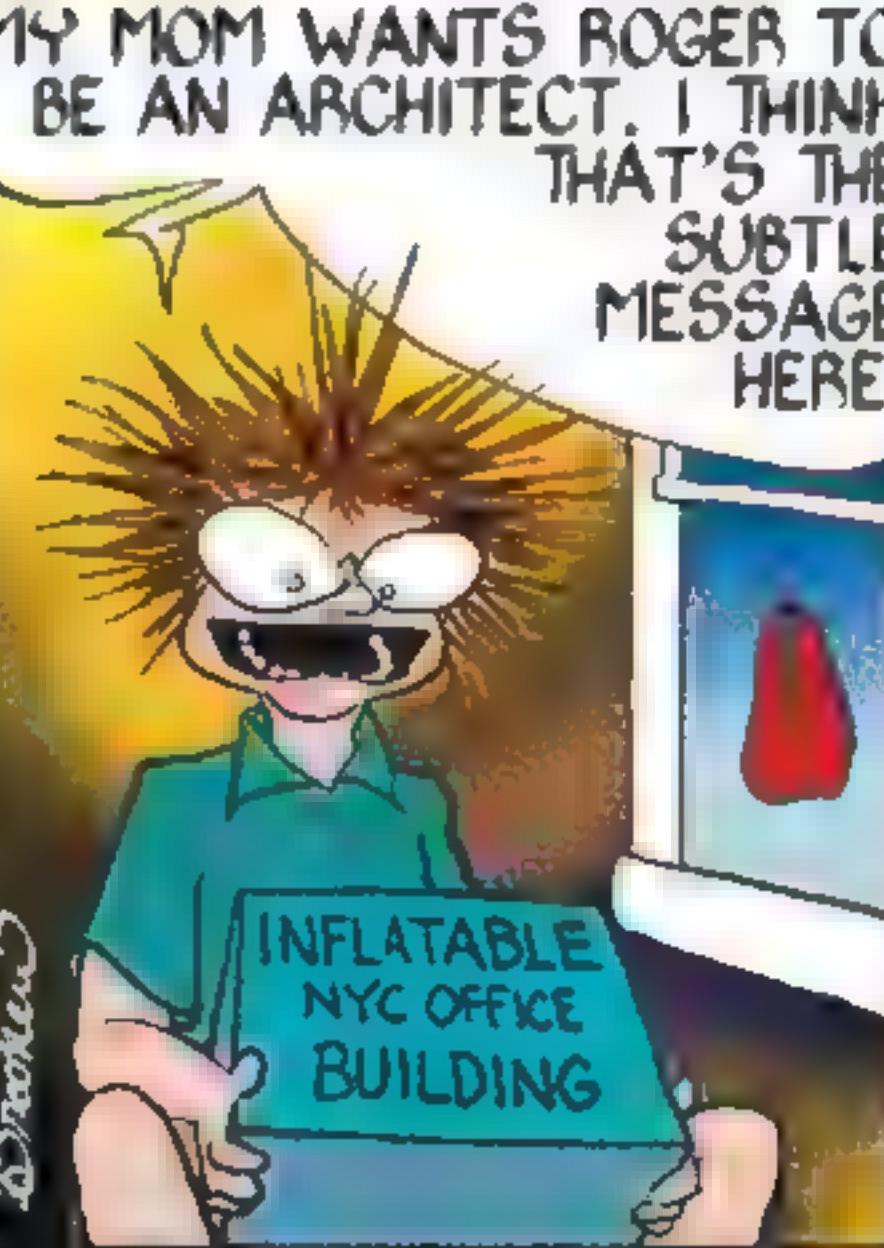


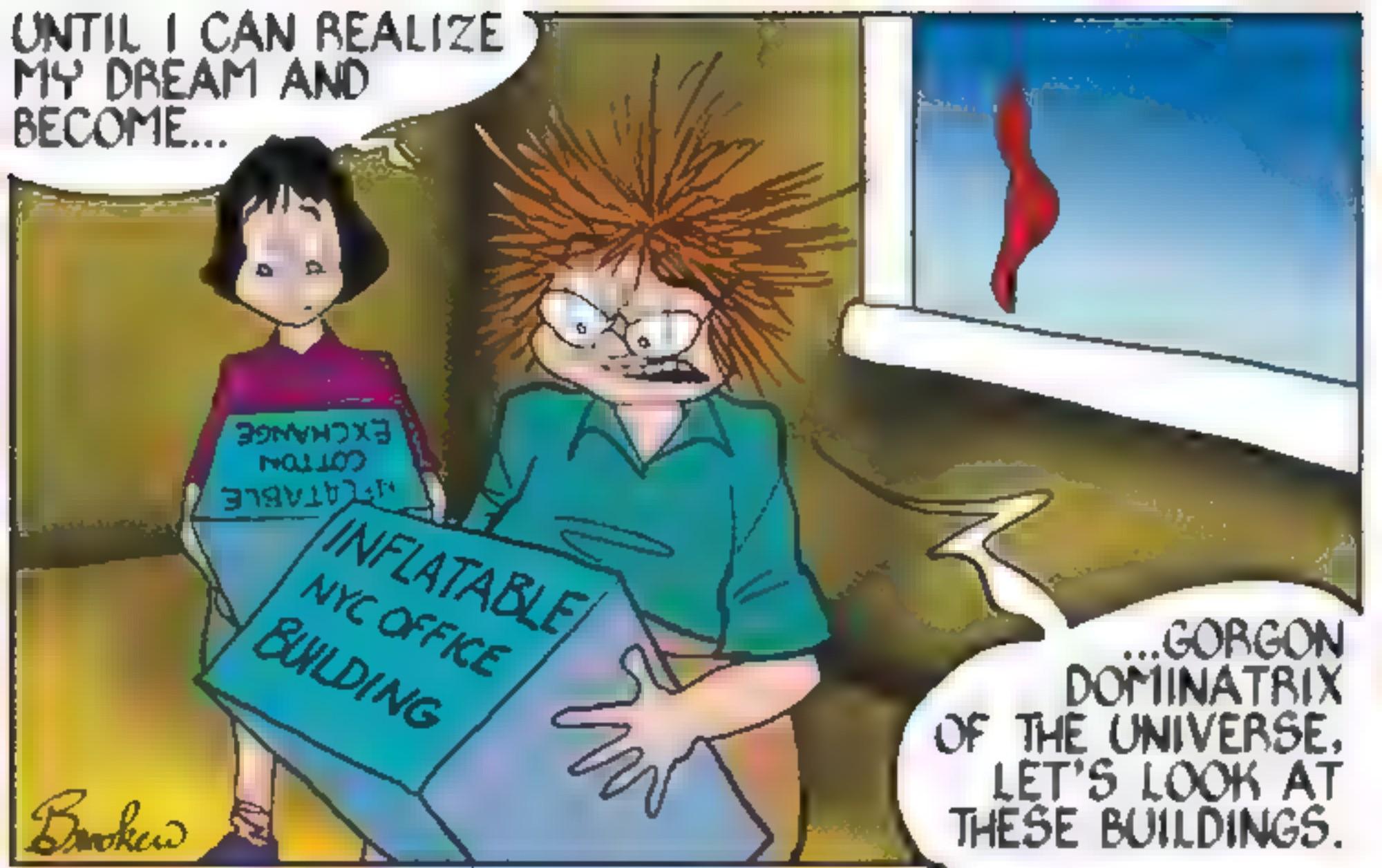


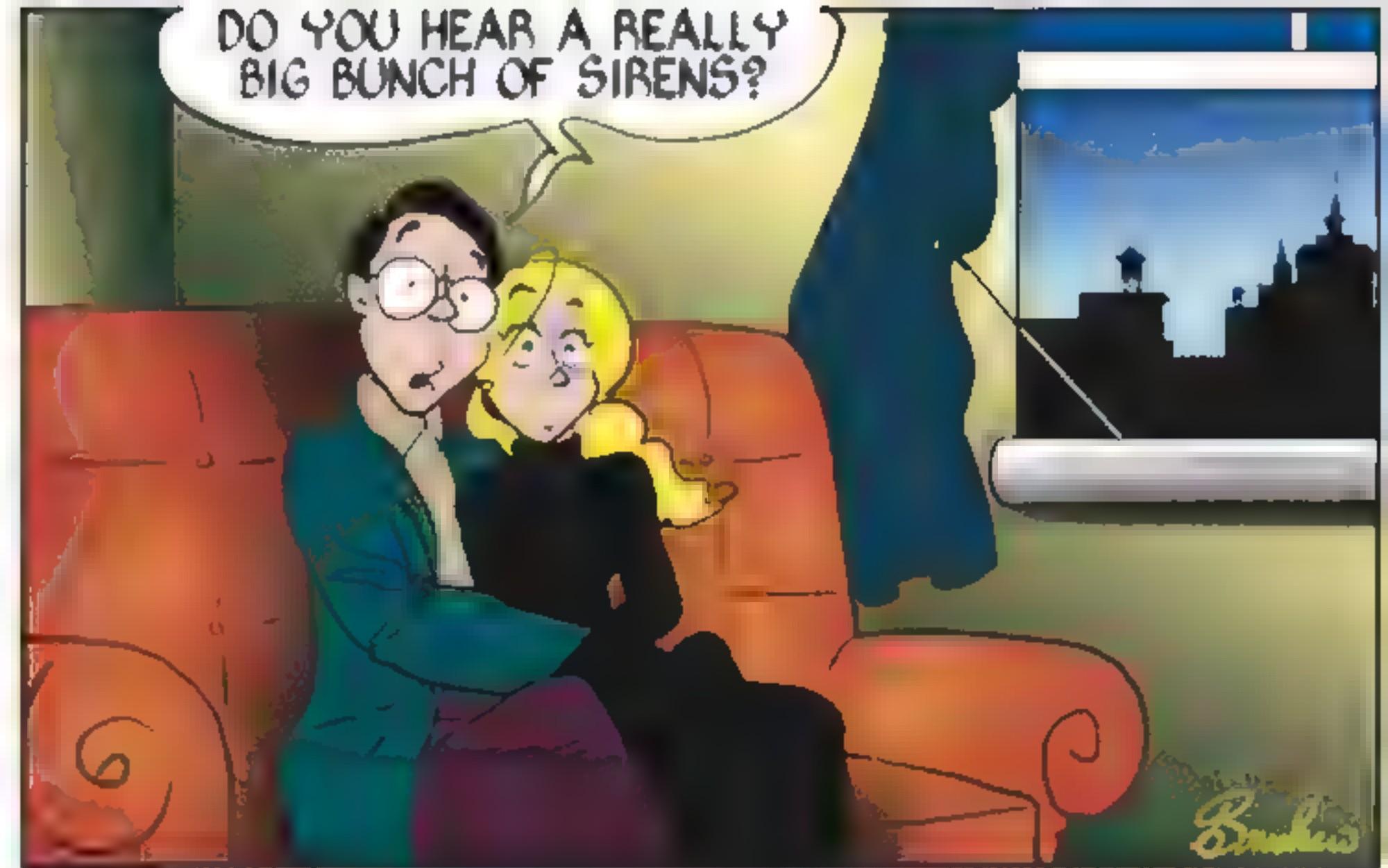
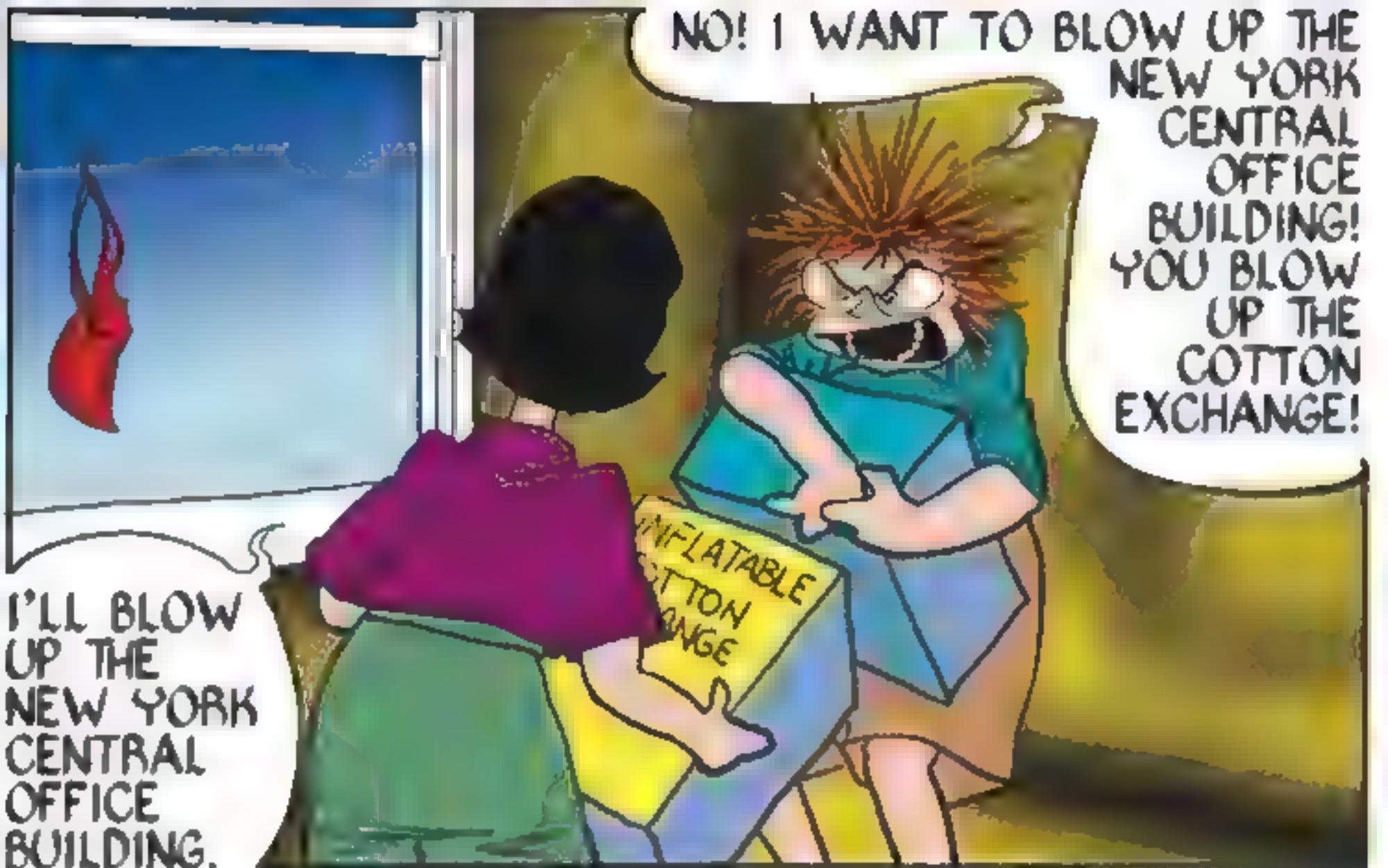
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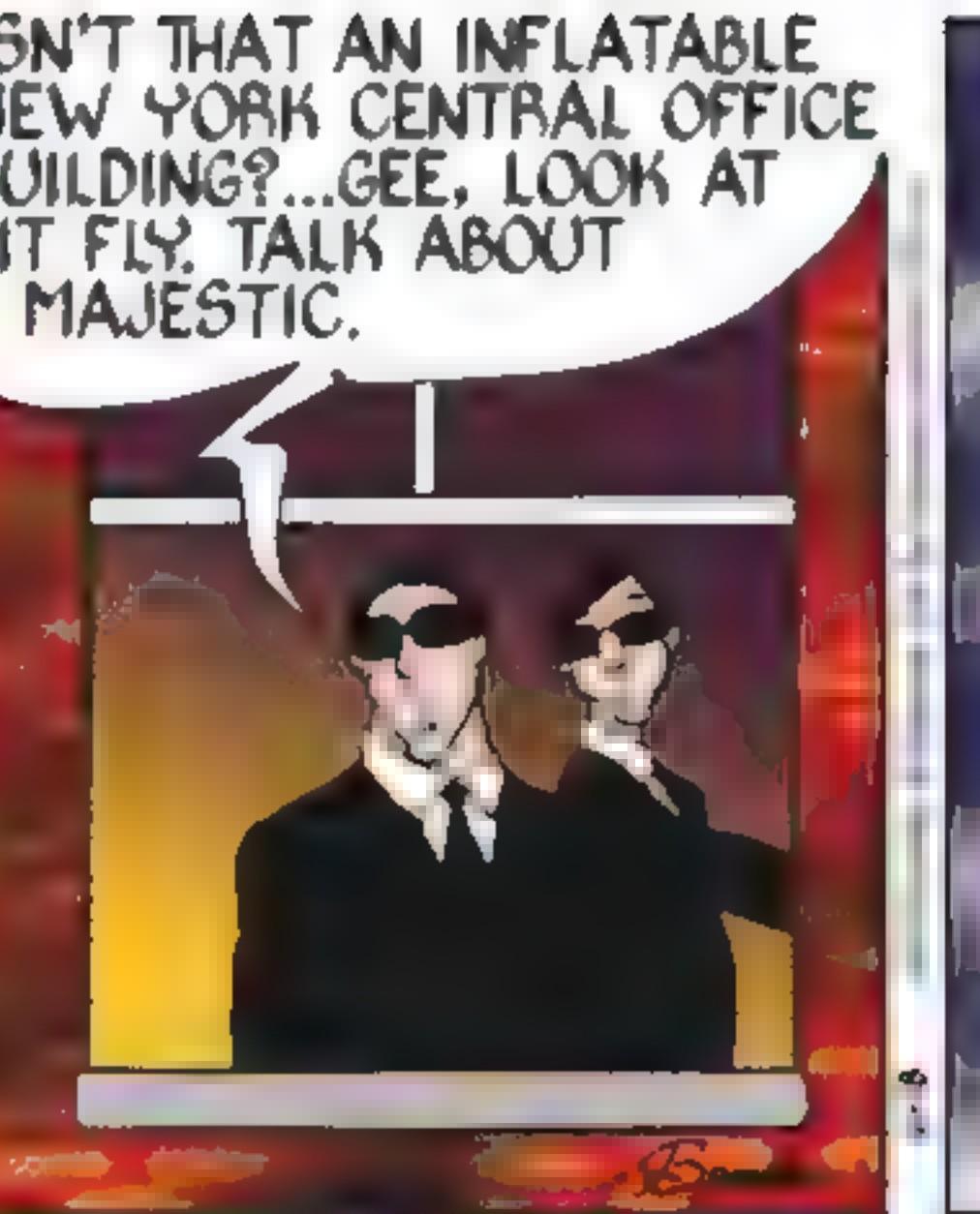


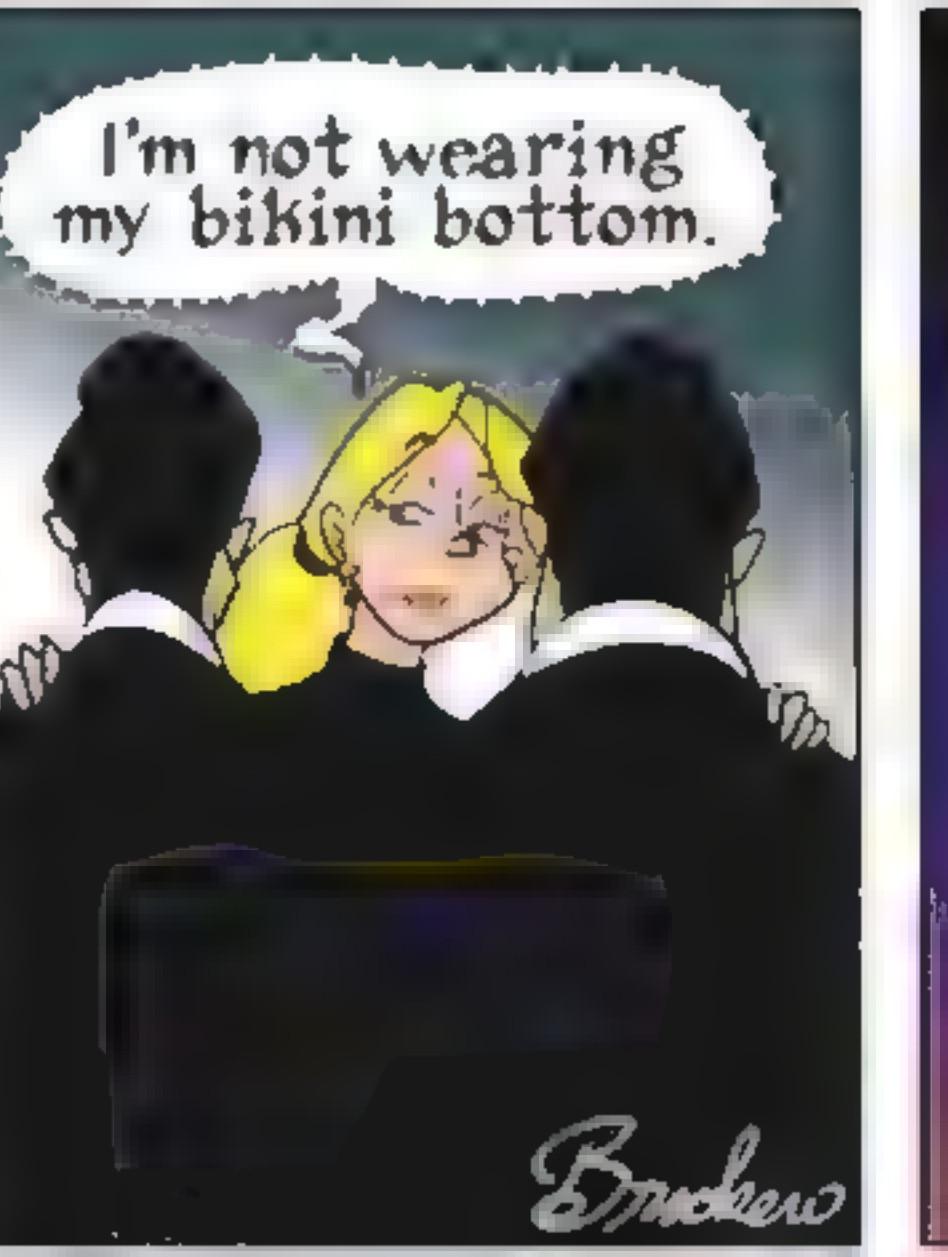
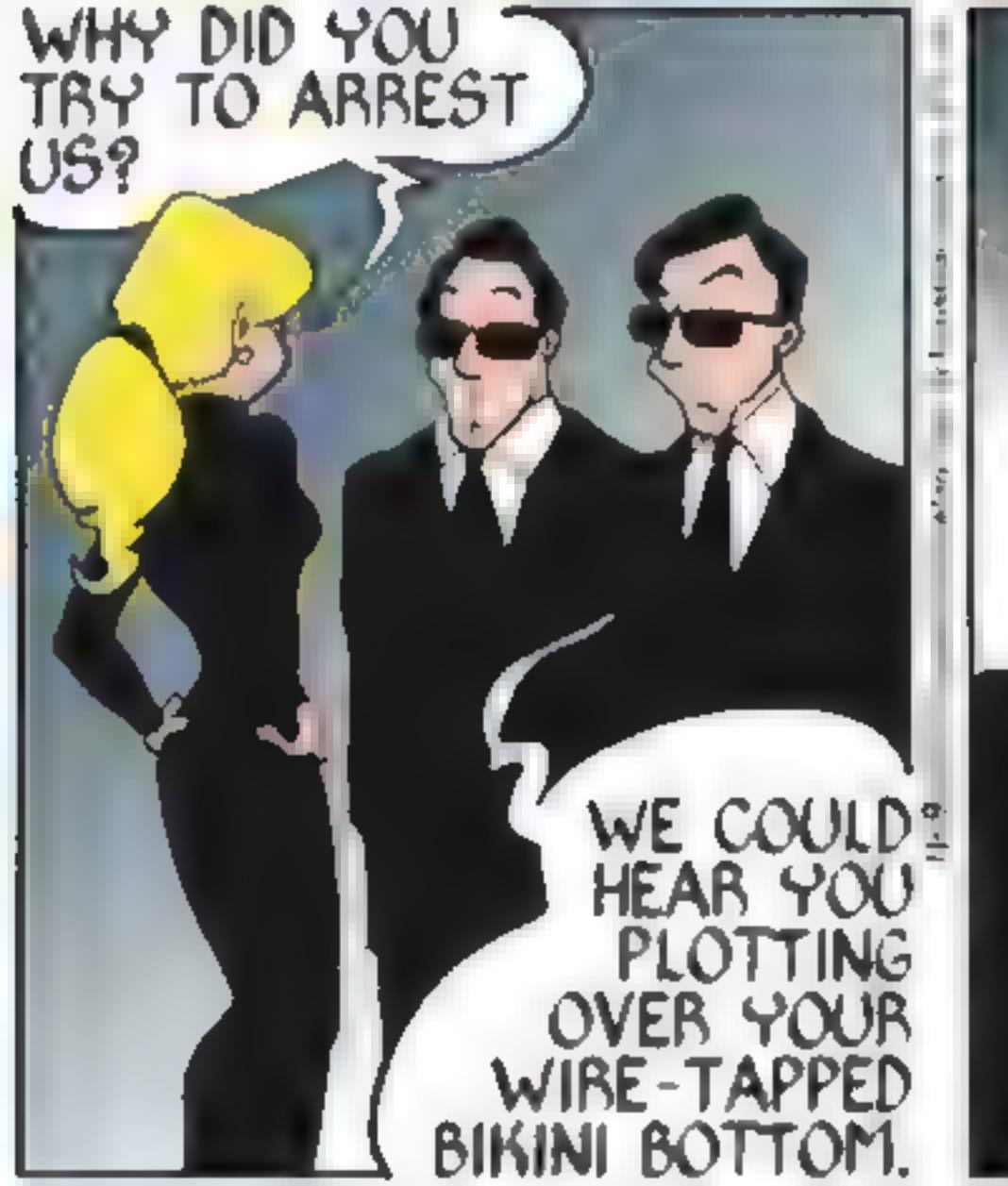










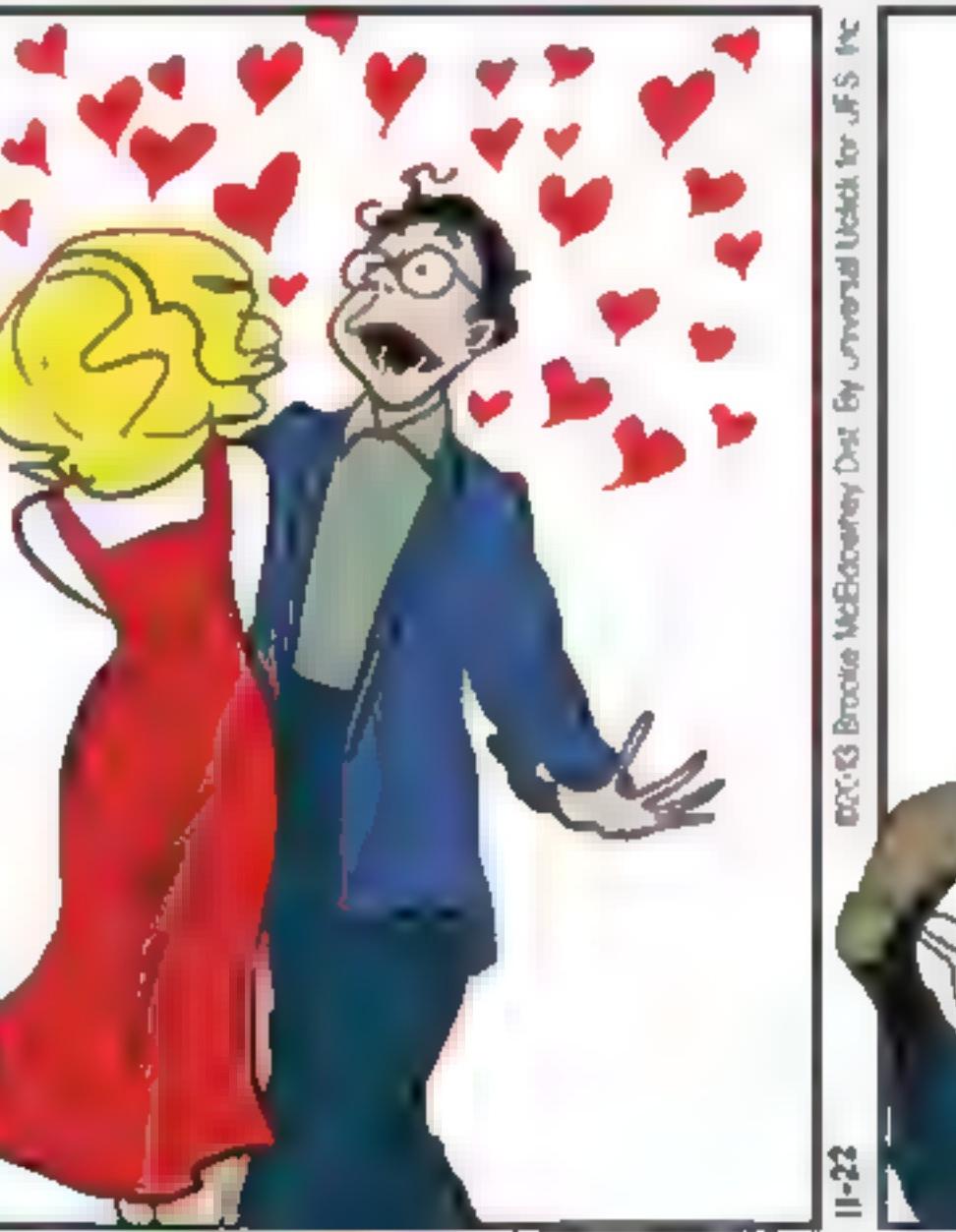
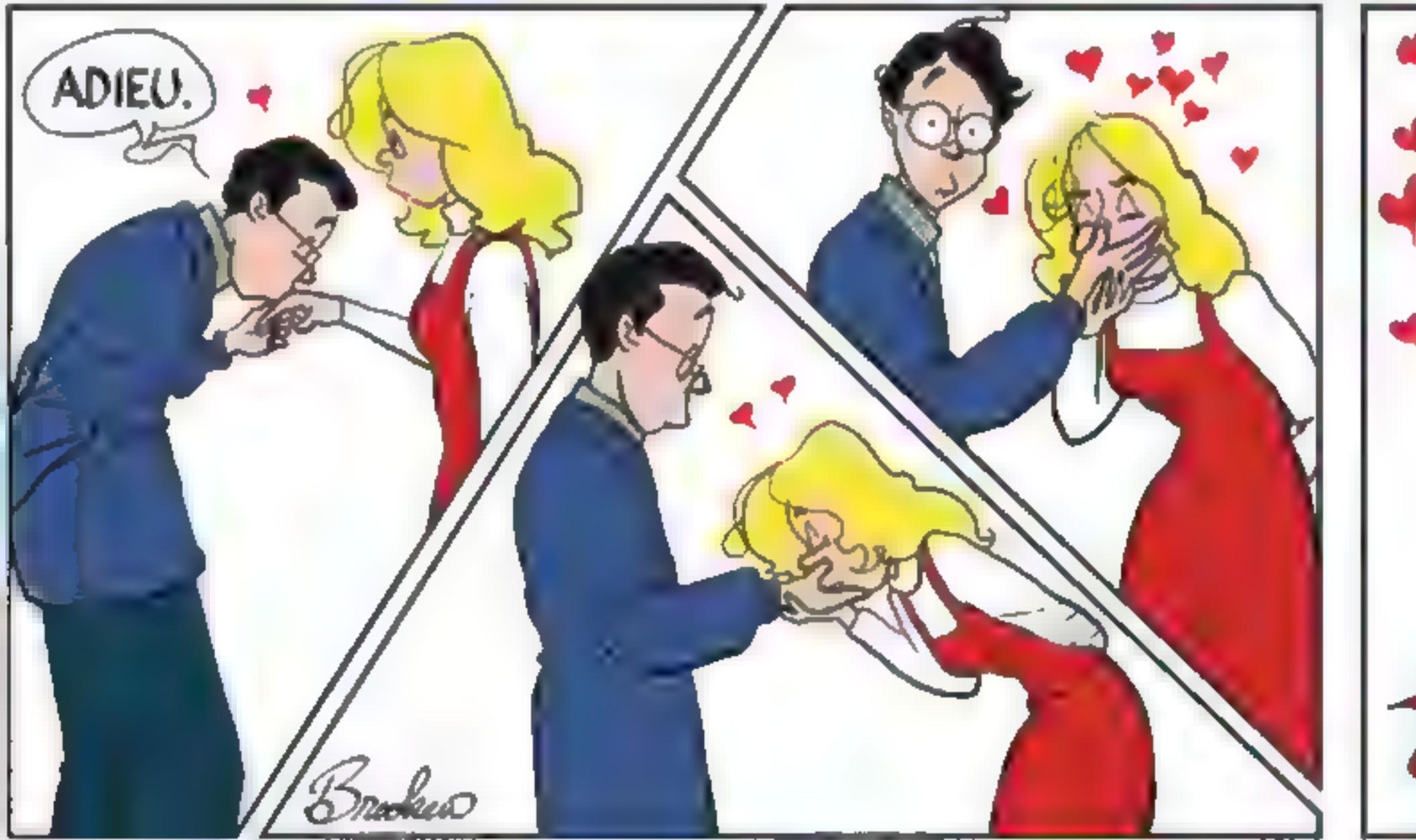


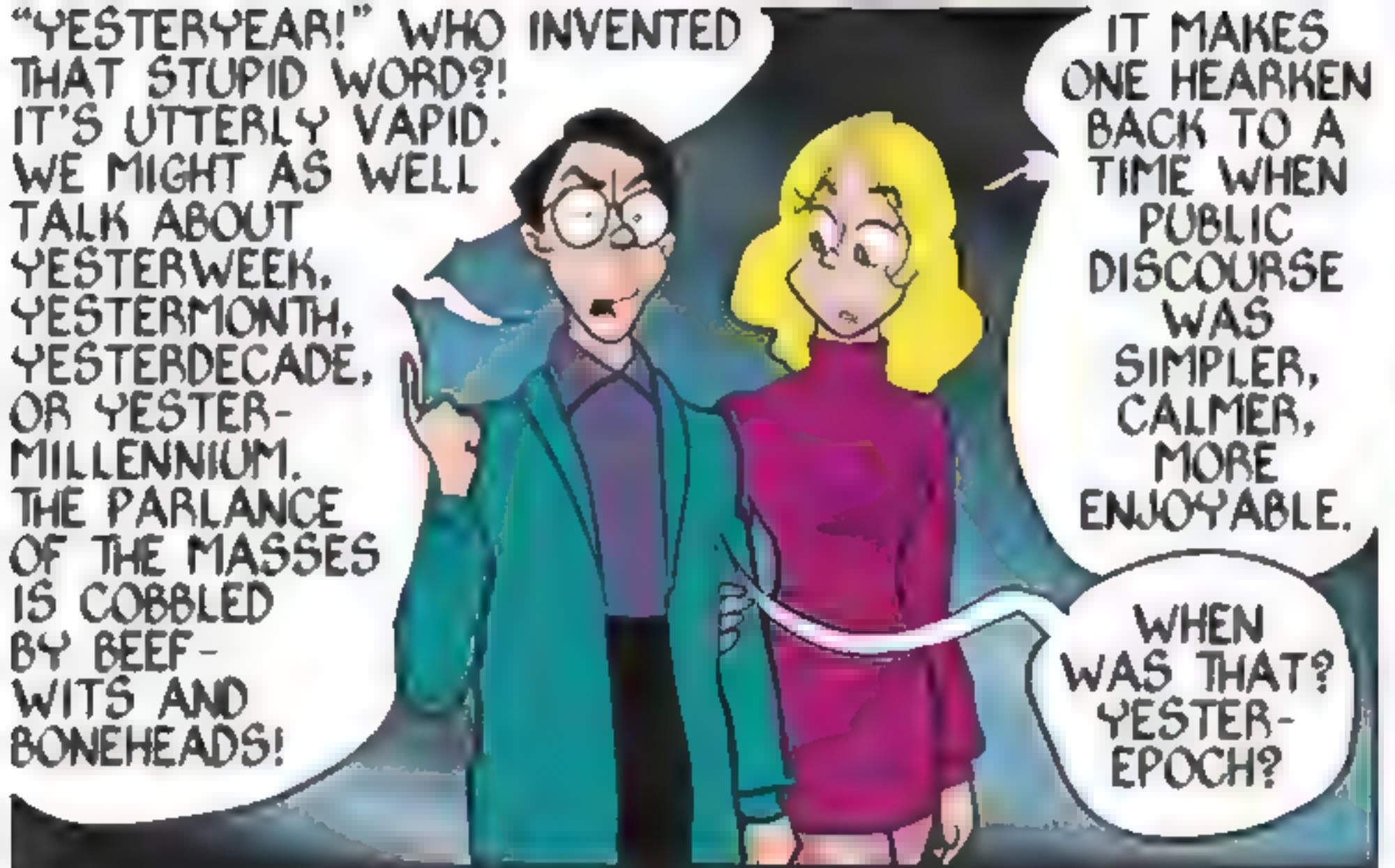


WHAT DID YOU WHISPER
TO THOSE SNOOPS FROM
THE CREEPY NATIONAL
FURTIVENESS AGENCY?

NOTHING, REALLY.
JUST THAT I'M...









SO I WAS TALKING WITH JANICE, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM NORMANDY WITH HER GRANDFATHER, WHO FOUGHT IN THE D-DAY INVASION.

WHILE WE WERE CHATTING, SHE ASKED ME THE STRANGEST QUESTION.

WHAT WAS IT?

SHE SAID THEY WERE IN A FIELD SURROUNDED BY HEDGEROWS, AND HE WAS TELLING HER ABOUT FLUSHING OUT GERMANS WHO ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES IN

THE ROOTS.

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

WELL, THEY CAME UPON A GRAVE MARKER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD. IT HAD A CAREFULLY PRESERVED HELMET PERCHED ON IT.

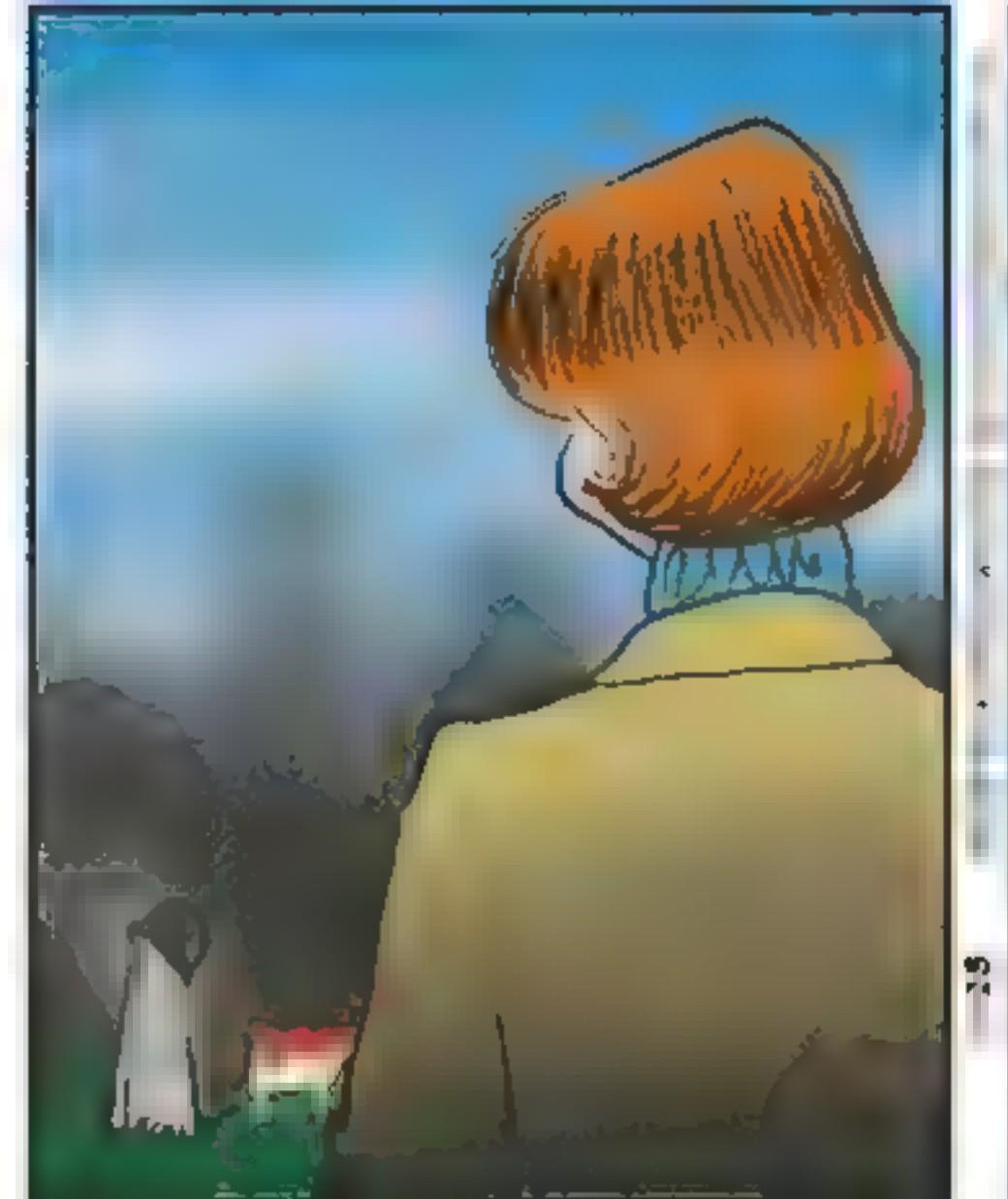
SHE SAID, "DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR GRANDFATHER'S NAME WAS EARL WILLIAM O'MALLEY?"

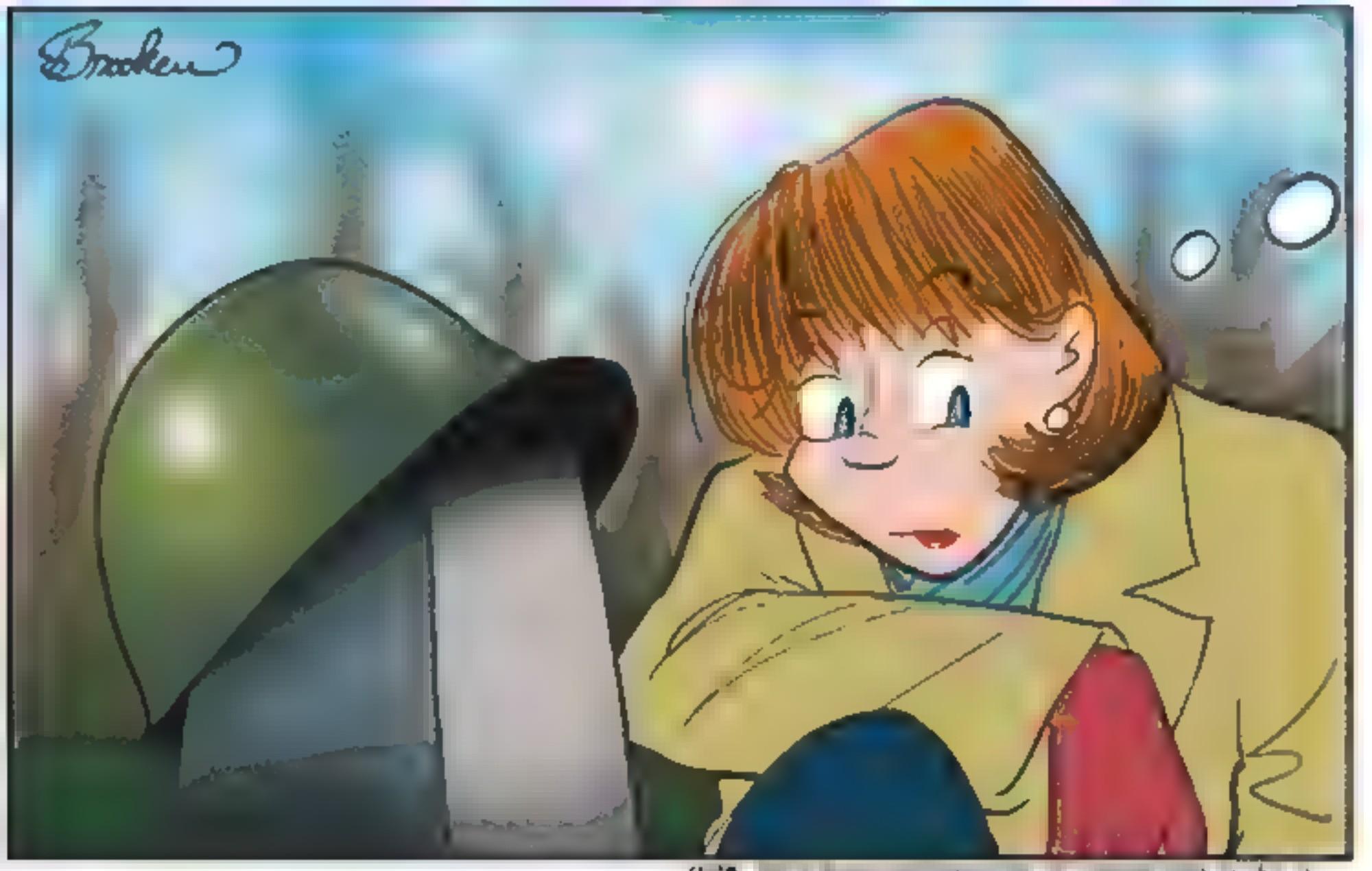




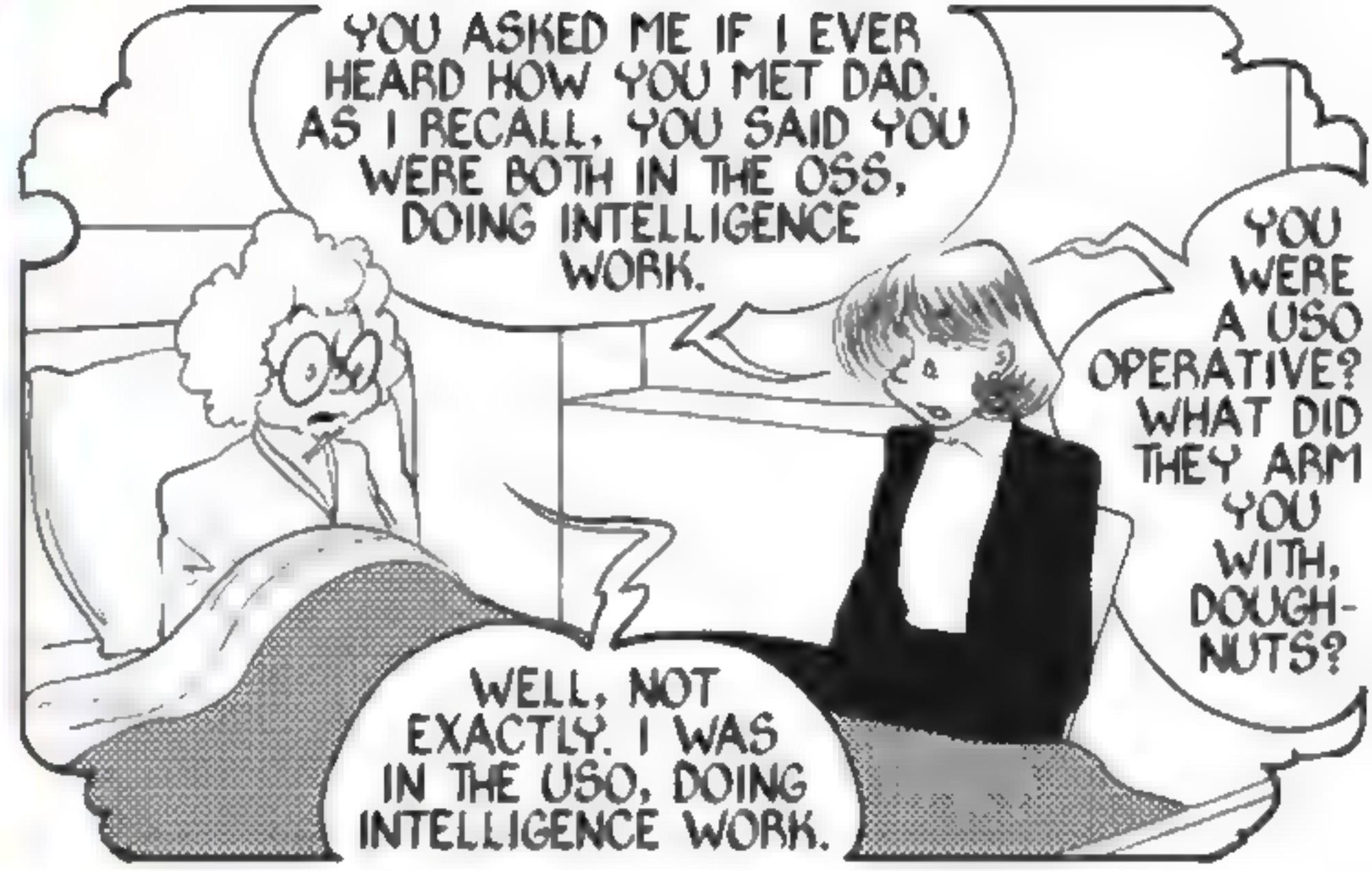


Beekle





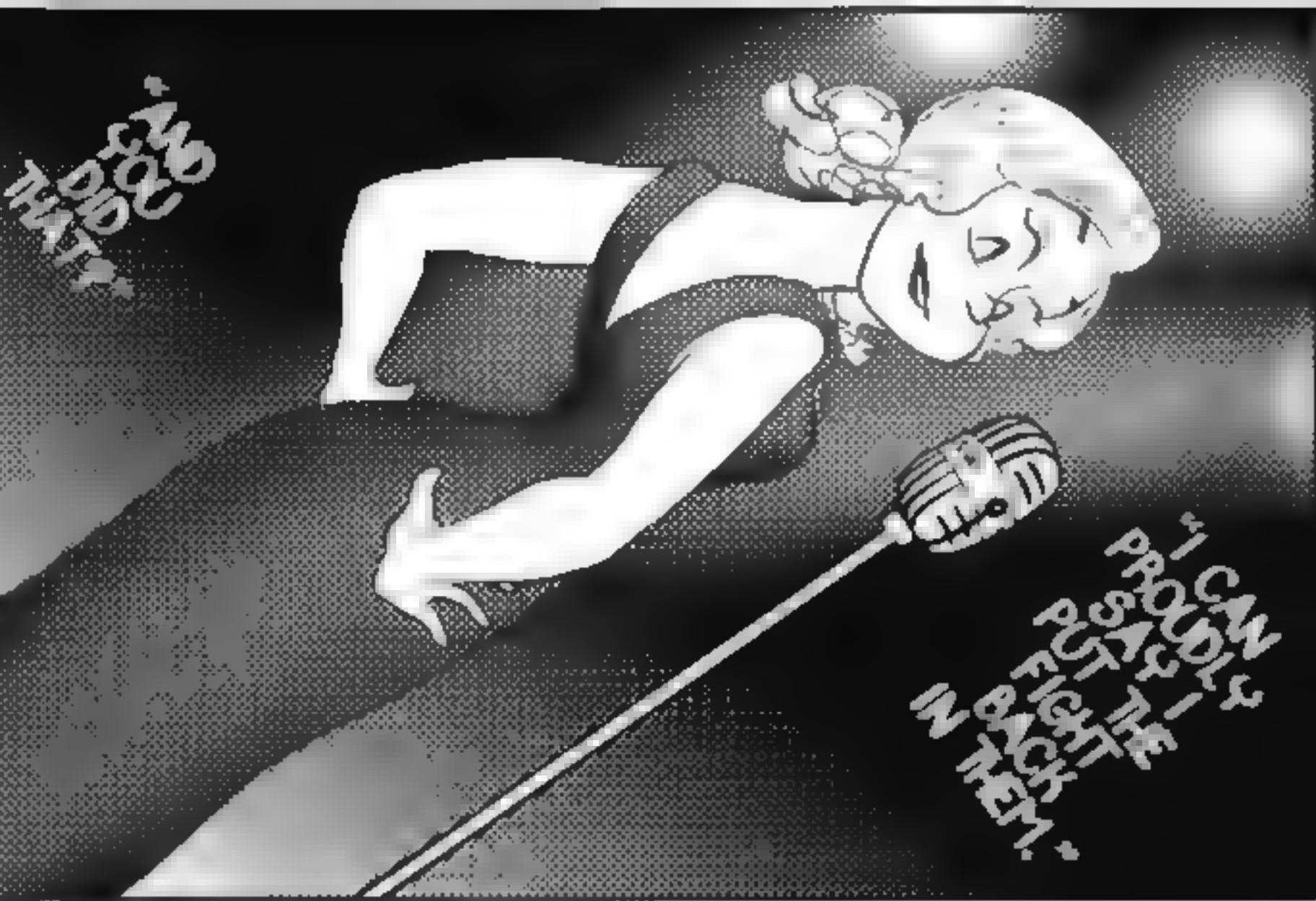
Bracken

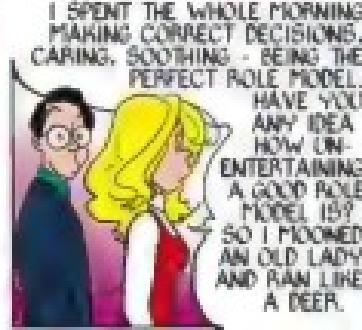
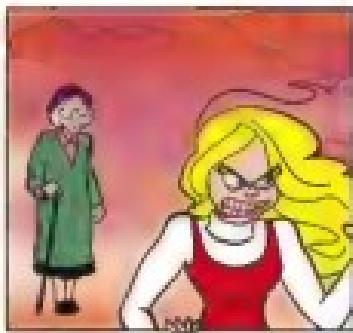


YOU SANG FOR THE
TROOPS DURING WORLD
WAR II?

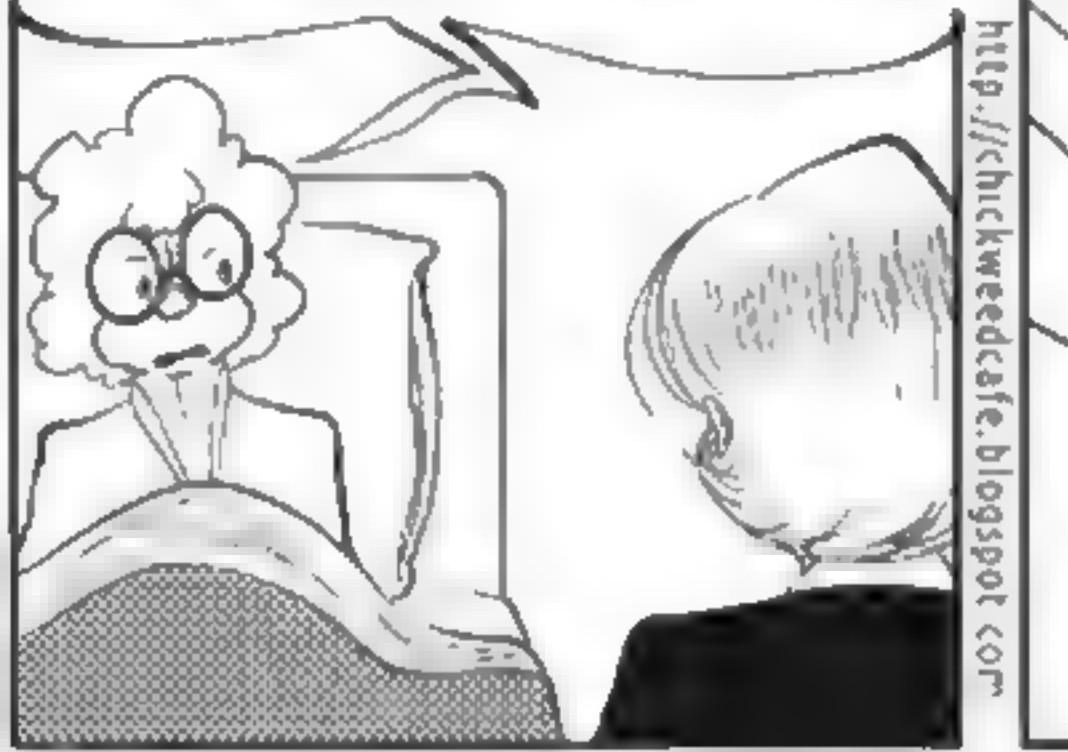


A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, there is a block of text in a stylized, hand-drawn font. To the right of the text is a rectangular frame containing a cartoon drawing. The drawing depicts a man with curly hair and round glasses, looking down at a woman. The man's shirt has the letters 'DAD' printed on it. The woman is wearing a dark dress and has her hands clasped near her chest. The background of the drawing shows a landscape with hills and a cloudy sky. In the bottom left corner of the entire image, the word 'Broken' is written in a cursive, handwritten style.





THERE WERE LOTS OF US
IN THE USO SHOWS. AND
SOME WERE STARS...
BOB HOPE, HEDY LAMARR,
BITA HAYWORTH. I WAS
JUST EDIE ERNST, EVERY
BOY'S STEADY FROM HOME.



<http://chickweedcafe.blogspot.com>

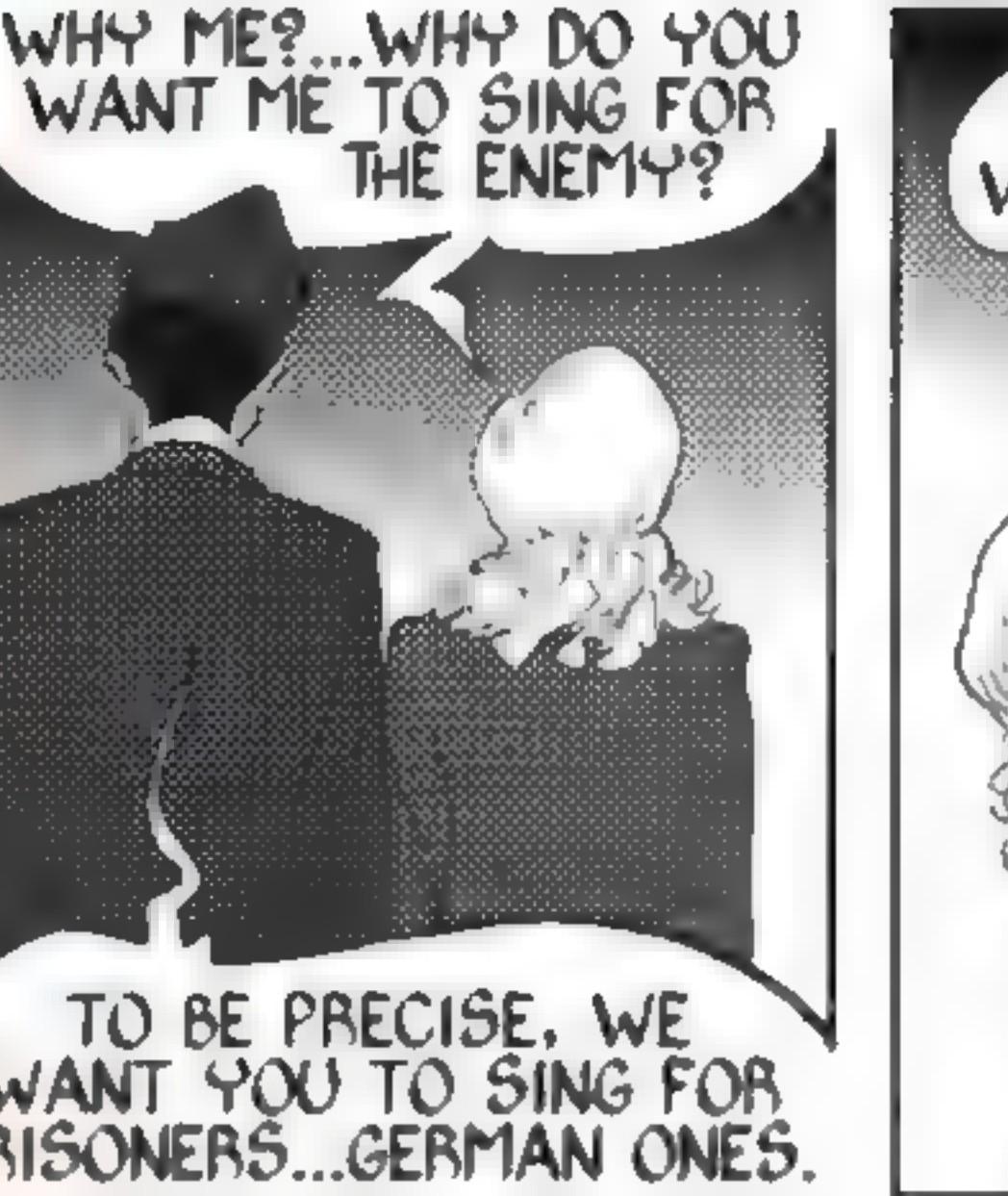
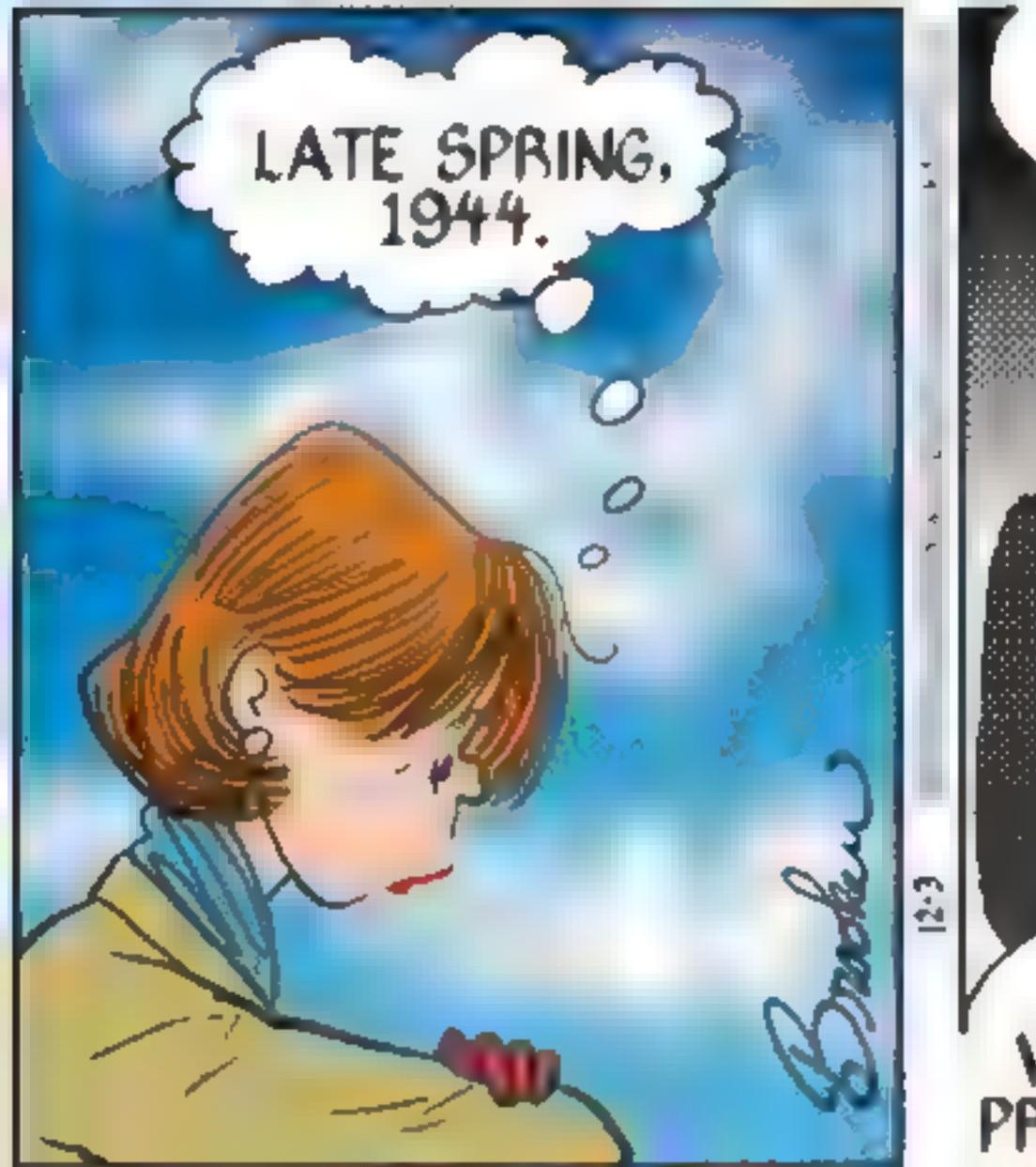
"I'D TALK TO THEM AFTER
THE SHOWS, AND THEY'D
HOLD MY HANDS FOR A
MOMENT AS IF THEY
WERE HOLDING SOMEONE
ELSE'S HANDS... THEN I'D
KISS THEM ON THE CHEEK
GOODBYE..."



B-2 CLOUDS ARE THE SWAYING IN THE AIR

B-2 CLOUDS ARE THE SWAYING IN THE AIR





THOSE GUYS HOLD YOUR HANDS AFTER A SHOW AND YOU CHAT WITH THEM...
...AND SUDDENLY YOU'RE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL SWEET-HEART...AND THEY START TALKING ABOUT EVERYTHING BACK HOME. THEY TELL YOU LOADS OF INFORMATION, AND ALL BECAUSE YOU SMILE AND LOOK UNTouched AND PURE.



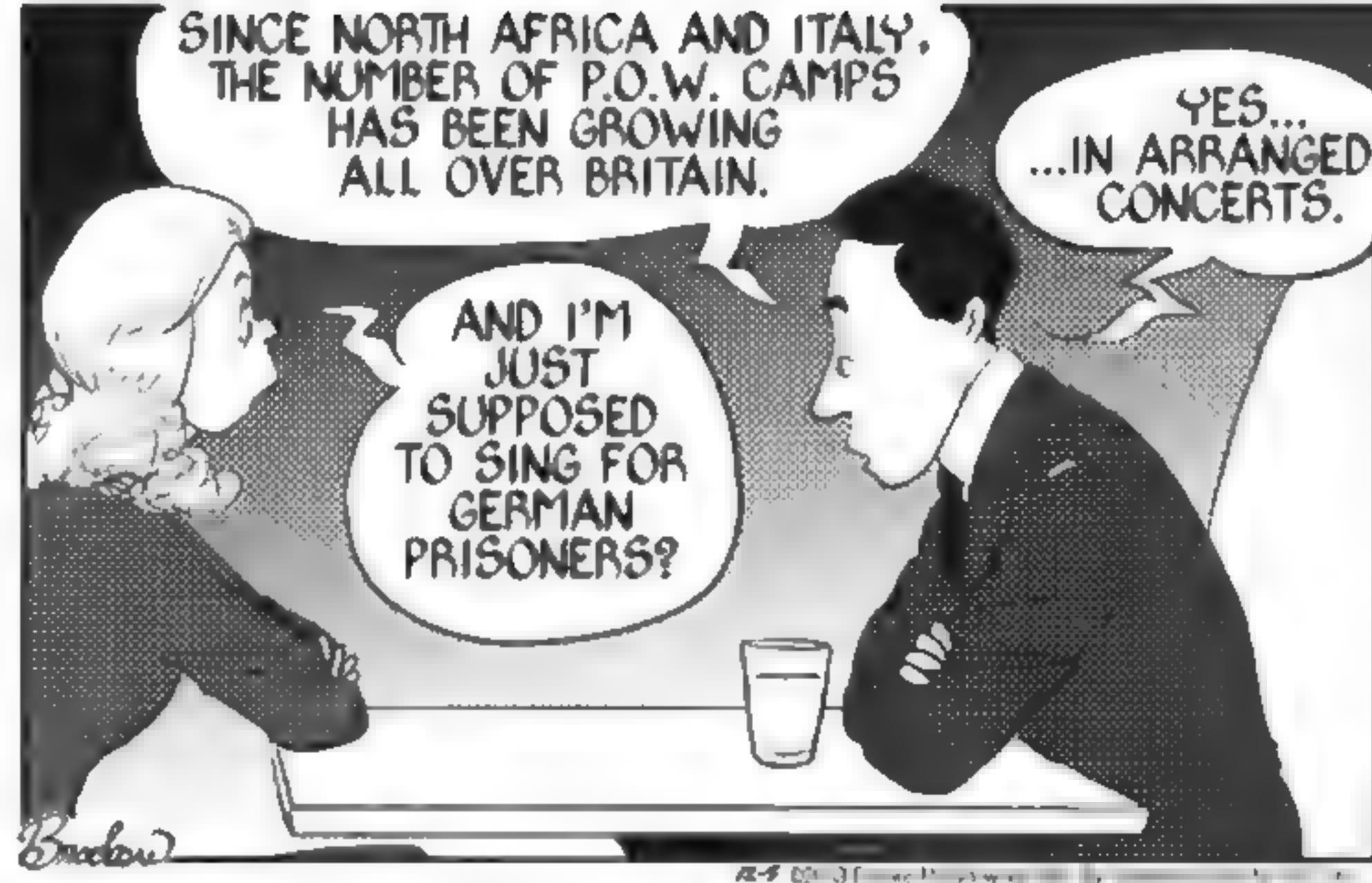
THE THING IS, WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE GERMAN SOLDIERS AND SAILORS SAY TO YOU...ABOUT HOME, ABOUT PLACES, WHAT THEY DO AND WHERE. THIS IS ALL INFORMATION THEY WON'T DIVULGE TO AN INTERROGATOR...

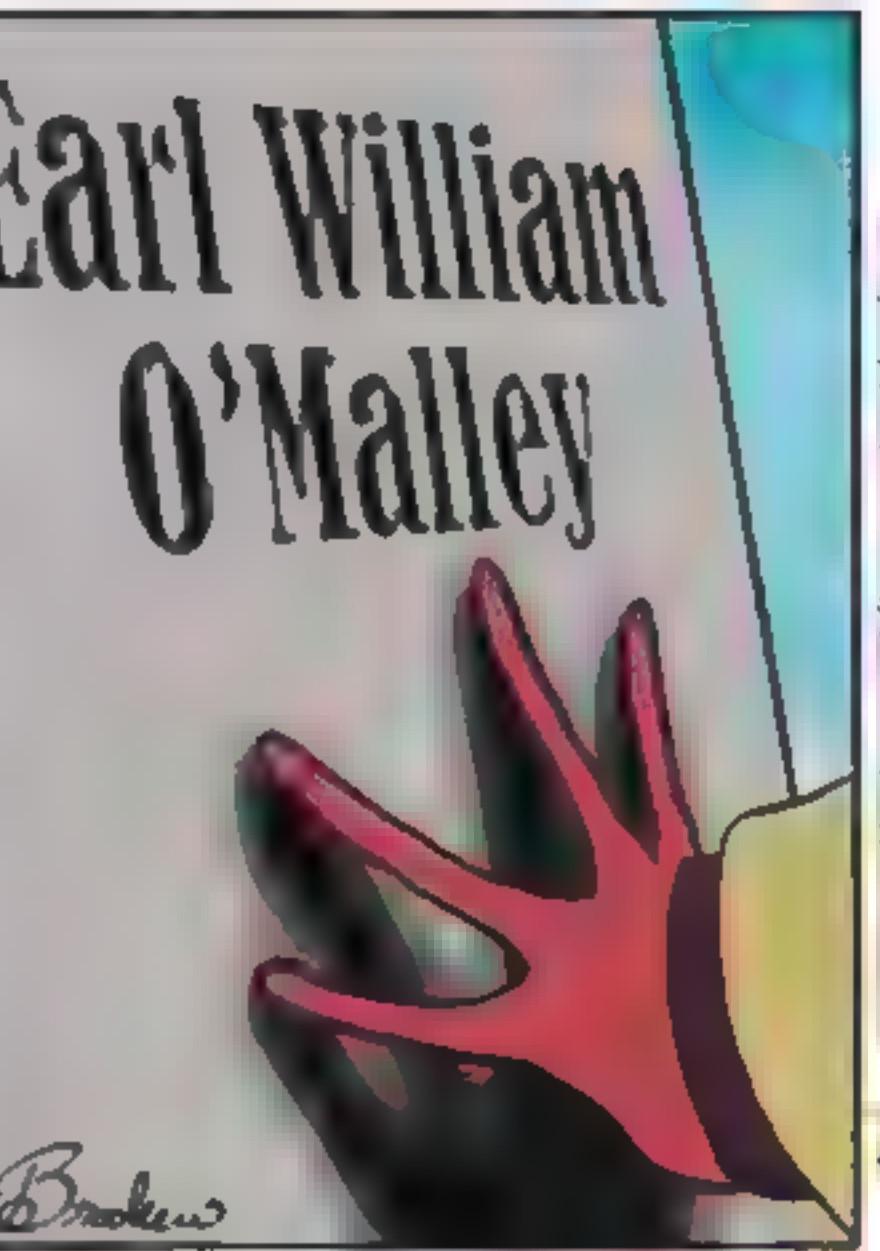


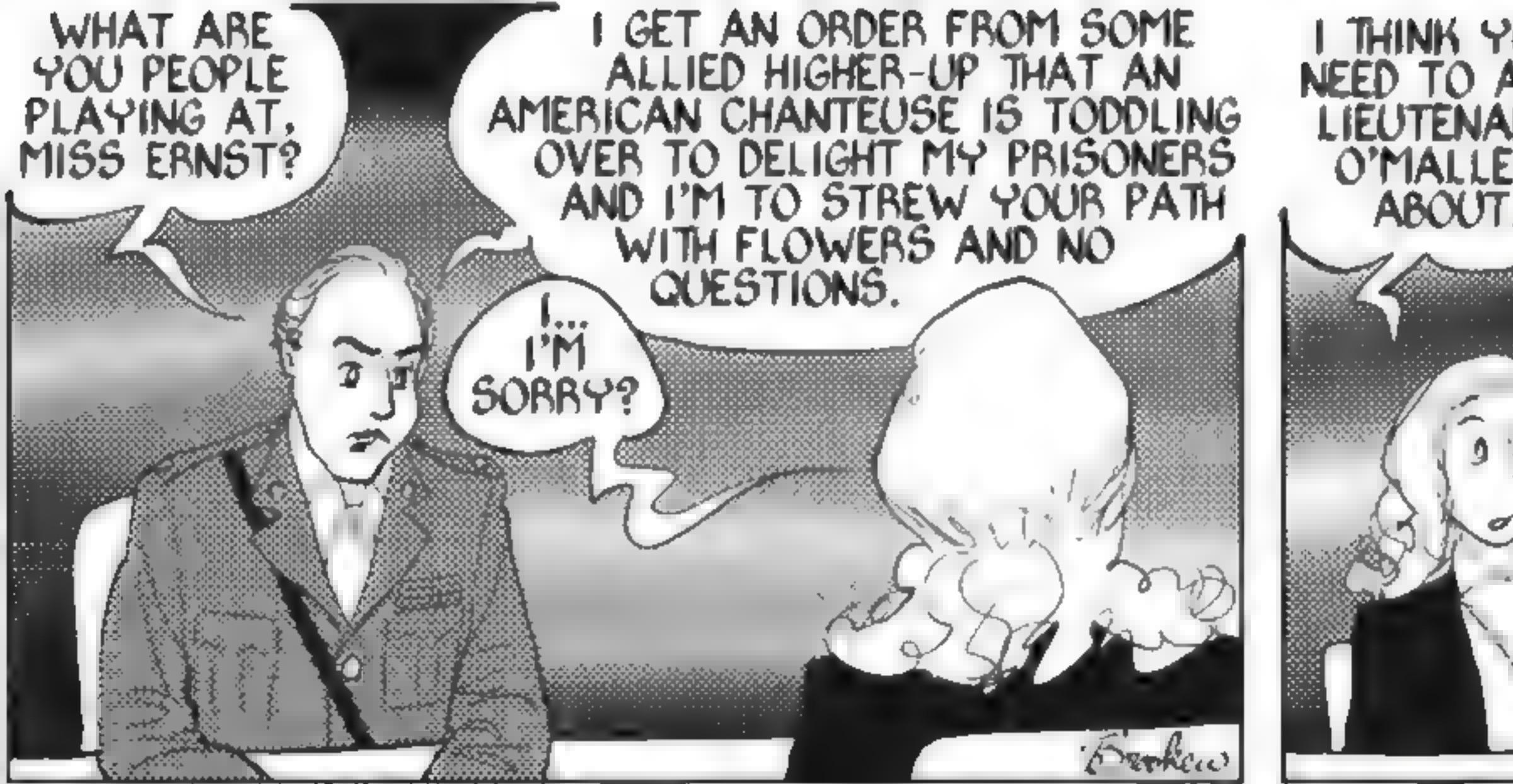
THEN WE WANT YOU TO REPEAT TO US WHAT THEY TOLD YOU WHILE THEY WERE HOLDING YOUR HANDS. WE'LL DECIDE IF THE INFORMATION IS OF ANY USE TO US.

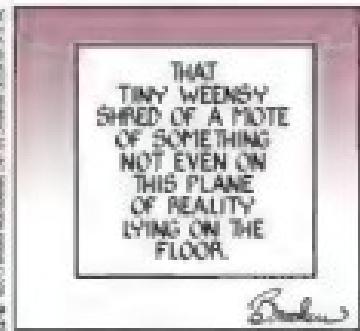
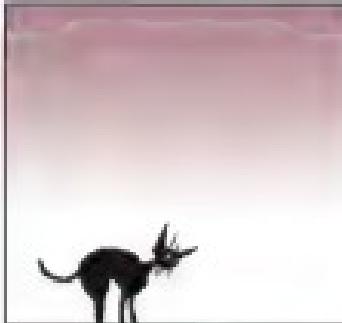


I WAS TOLD I COULD NOT TALK TO ANYBODY
ABOUT THE JOB THAT WAS BEING PLACED
BEFORE ME. I WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON
MY OWN. MY ONLY CONFIDANT
WAS BILL. AND HE
ALWAYS TRIED
TO LOOK
IMPASSIVE.

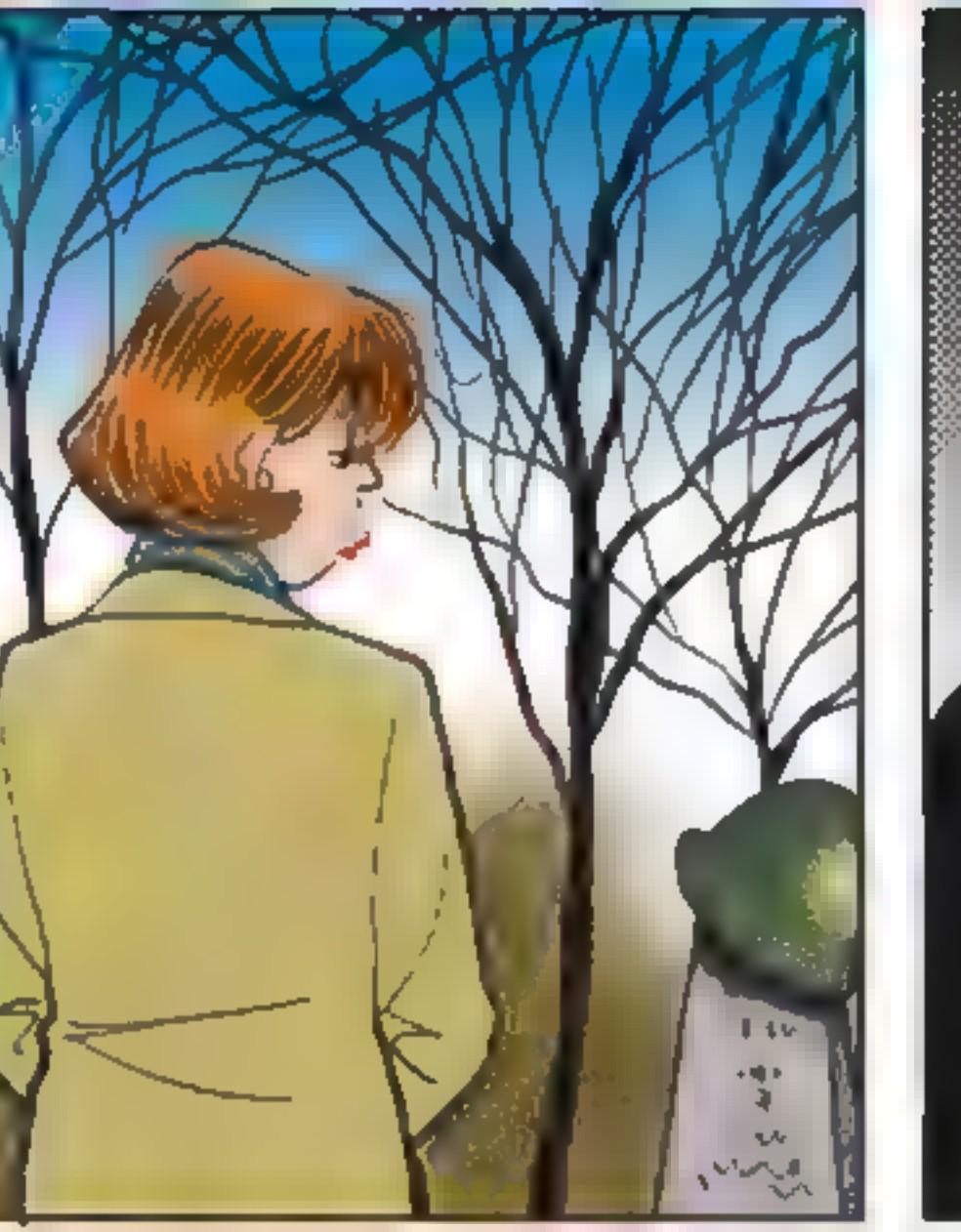
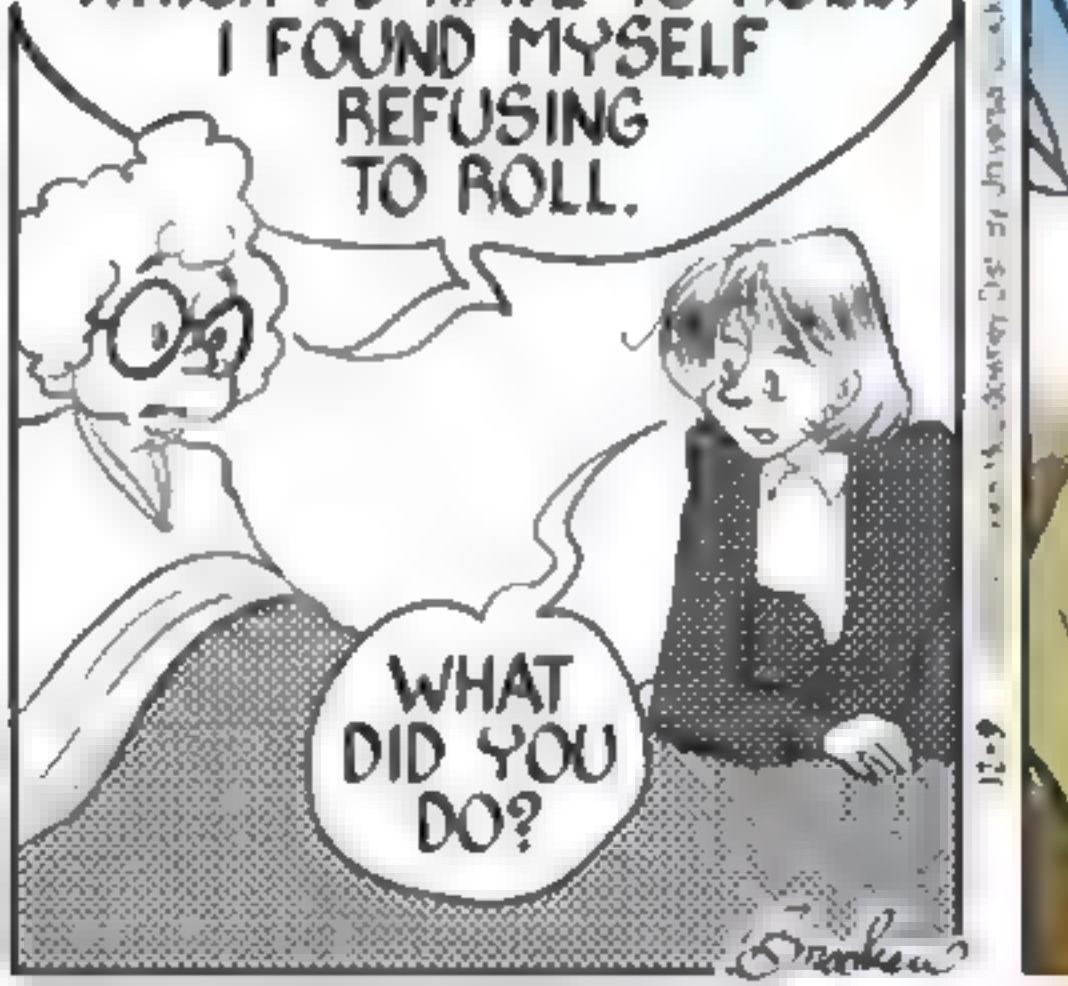




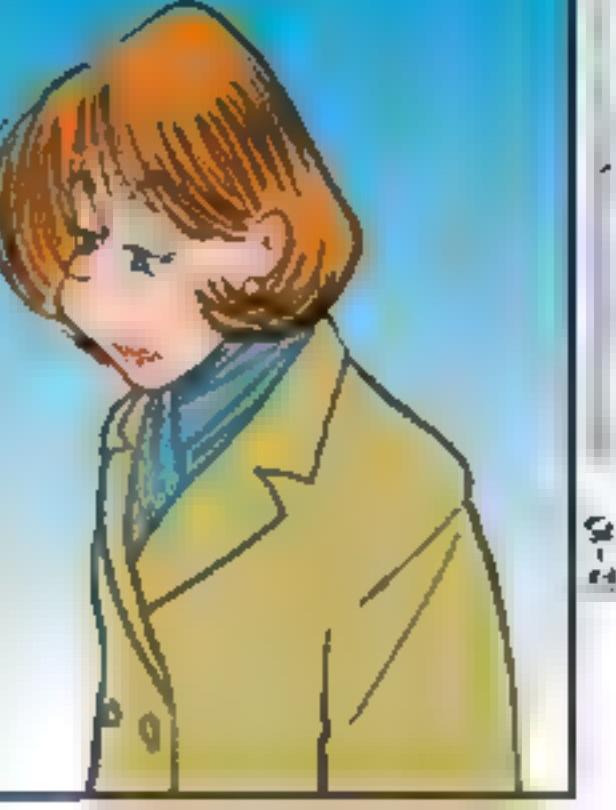




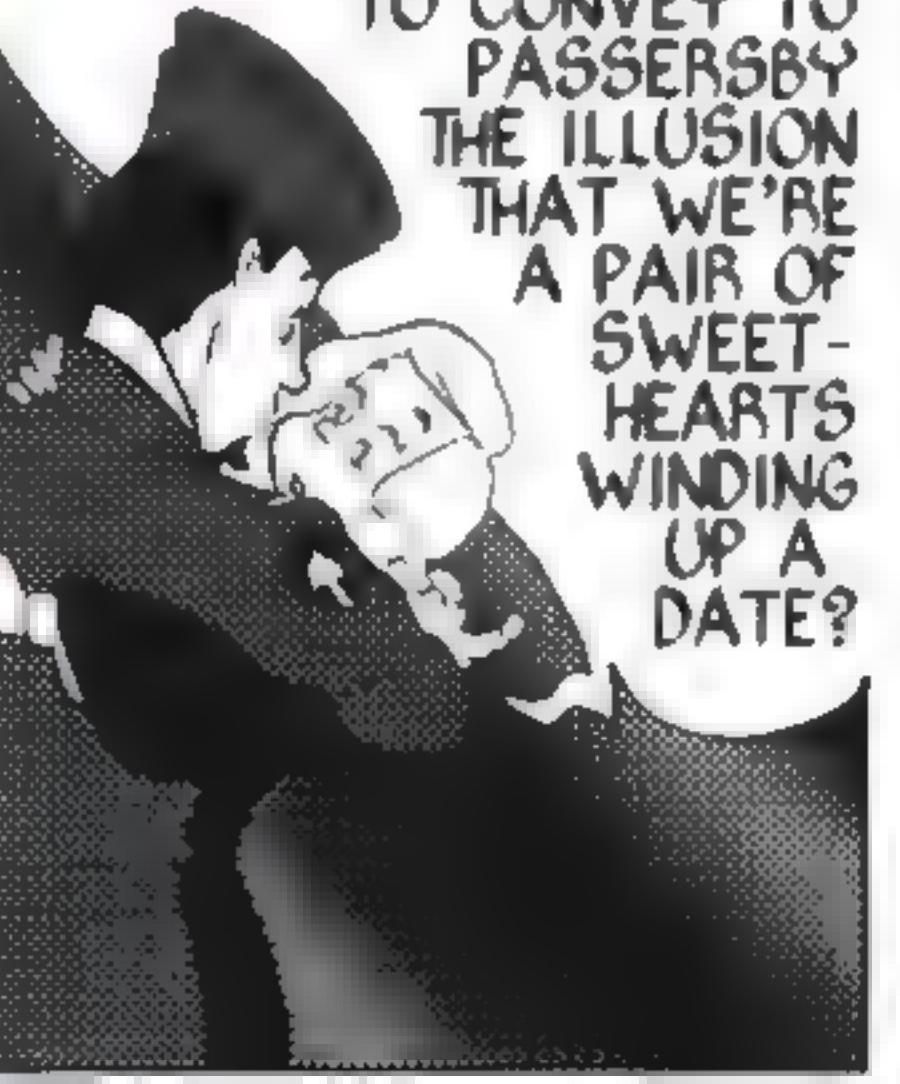
AT THAT POINT, ALTHOUGH
BILL HAD WARNED ME THERE
MIGHT BE PUNCHES WITH
WHICH I'D HAVE TO ROLL,
I FOUND MYSELF
REFUSING
TO ROLL.



"BILL SPREAD THE STORY
THAT WE WERE IN LOVE,
TO EXPLAIN WHY WE
MET SO FREQUENTLY.
HOWEVER..."



"JUST SO I KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON...WAS THAT
TO CONVEY TO
PASSESBY
THE ILLUSION
THAT WE'RE
A PAIR OF
SWEET-
HEARTS
WINDING
UP A
DATE?"

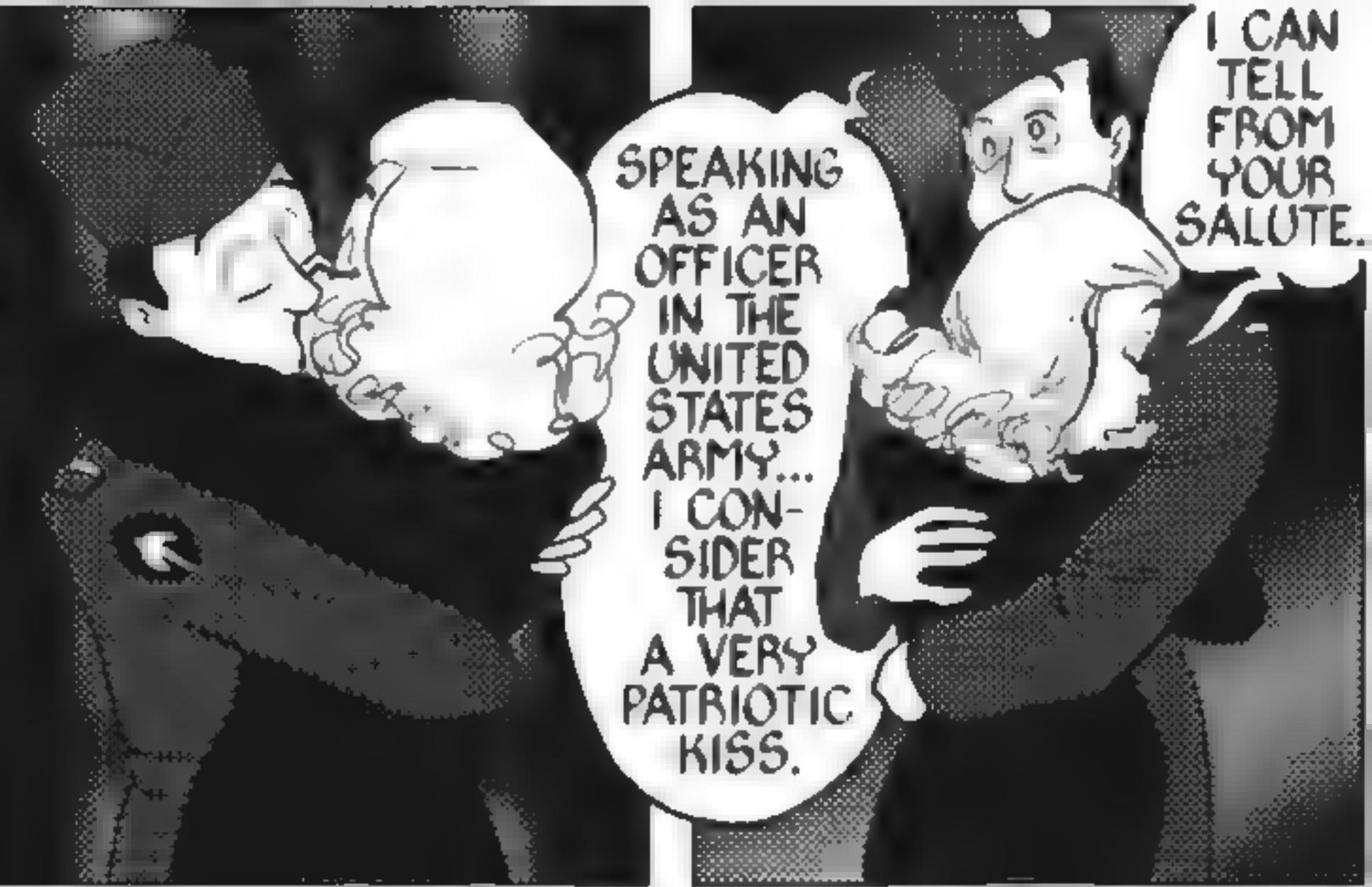
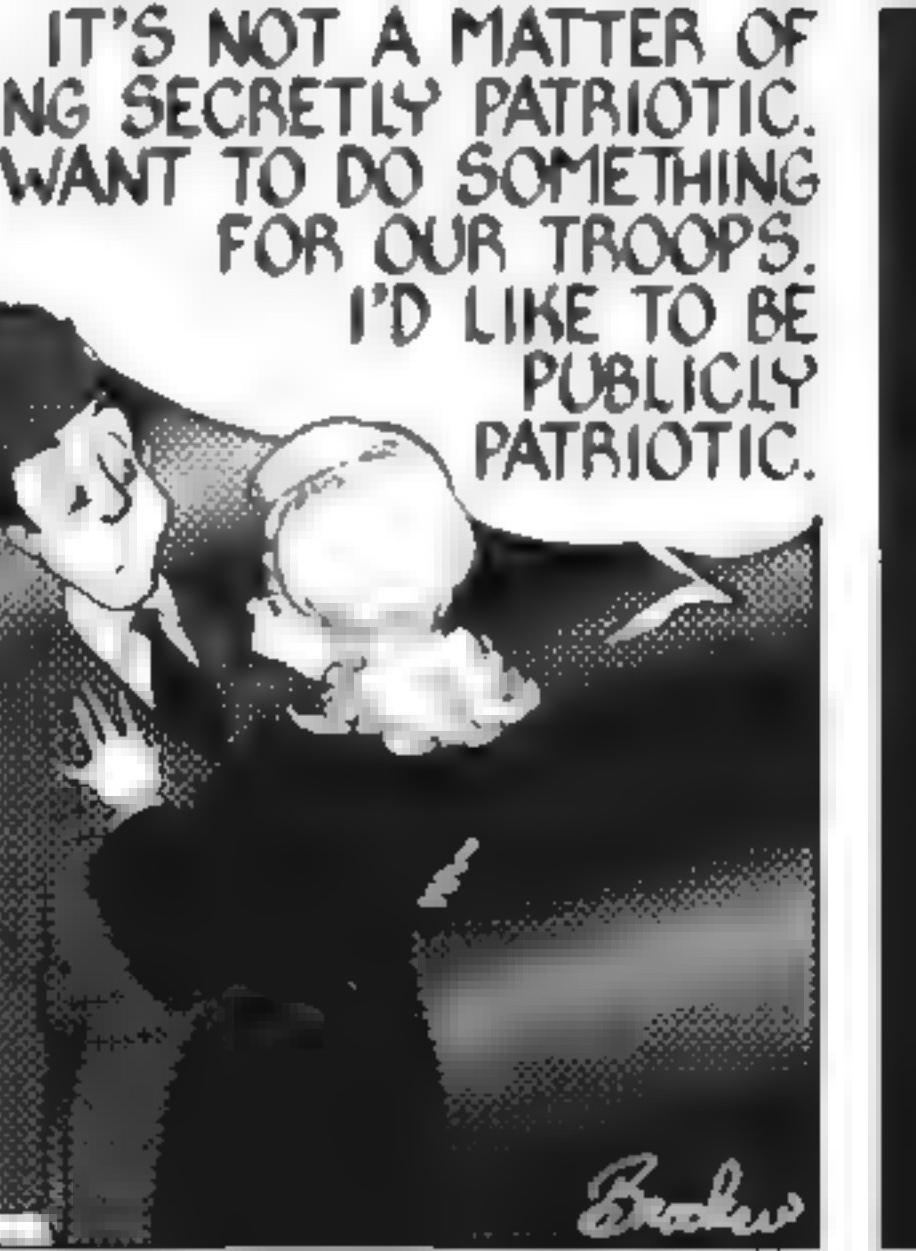


"NO.
I WAS
SIMPLY
KISSING
YOU."



"AND JUST SO
YOU KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON...
...I'M NOT
FINISHED."





"BEFORE LEAVING ME AT
MY DOOR THAT EVENING,
BILL TOOK OFF HIS HAT...
...AND BILL NEVER REMOVED
HIS HAT OUT OF DOORS.

THEN HE
CALLED ME...

SWEETHEART...

"IT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME HE
EVER
CALLED ME
THAT."

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T
KNOWN MANY
MEN...

AS A
USO SINGER,
I, OF COURSE,
WOULDN'T HAVE
HAD CONTACT
WITH A LOT OF
MEN.

ALL I'M TRYING
TO SAY IS,
YOU HAVEN'T
HAD A LOT
OF GUYS
TO CHOOSE
FROM...

Bethan

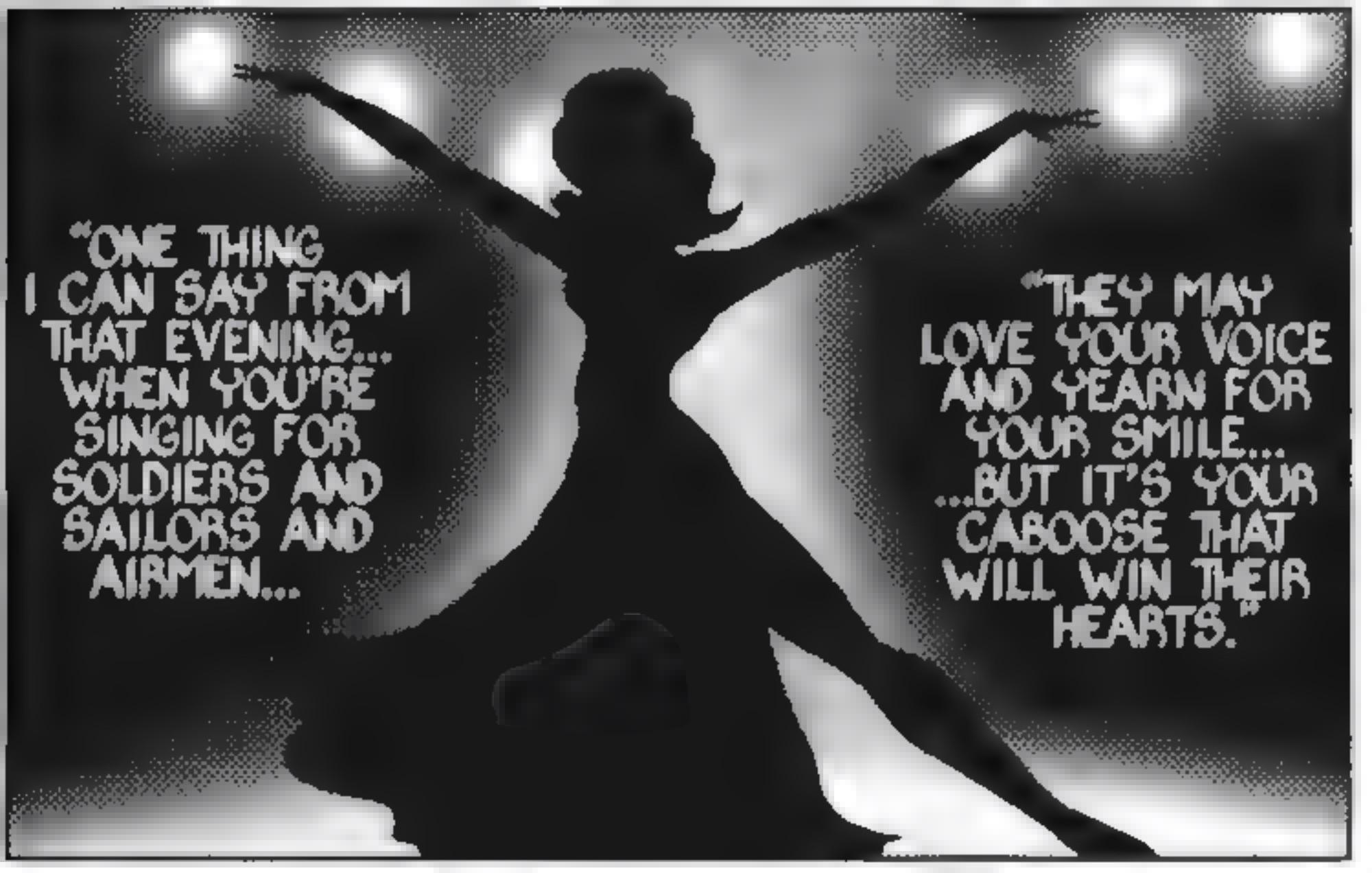
BUT
MAYBE,
ONE DAY,
IF WE
MAKE IT
THROUGH
THIS WAR...

...YOU'LL
CHOOSE
ME.

OKAY, EDIE...THERE'S A BIG CAMP SHOW THAT'S
BEEN ARRANGED FOR AMERICAN AND BRITISH
TROOPS TOGETHER. THE IDEA IS TO FORGE
A GREATER BOND AMONG US.

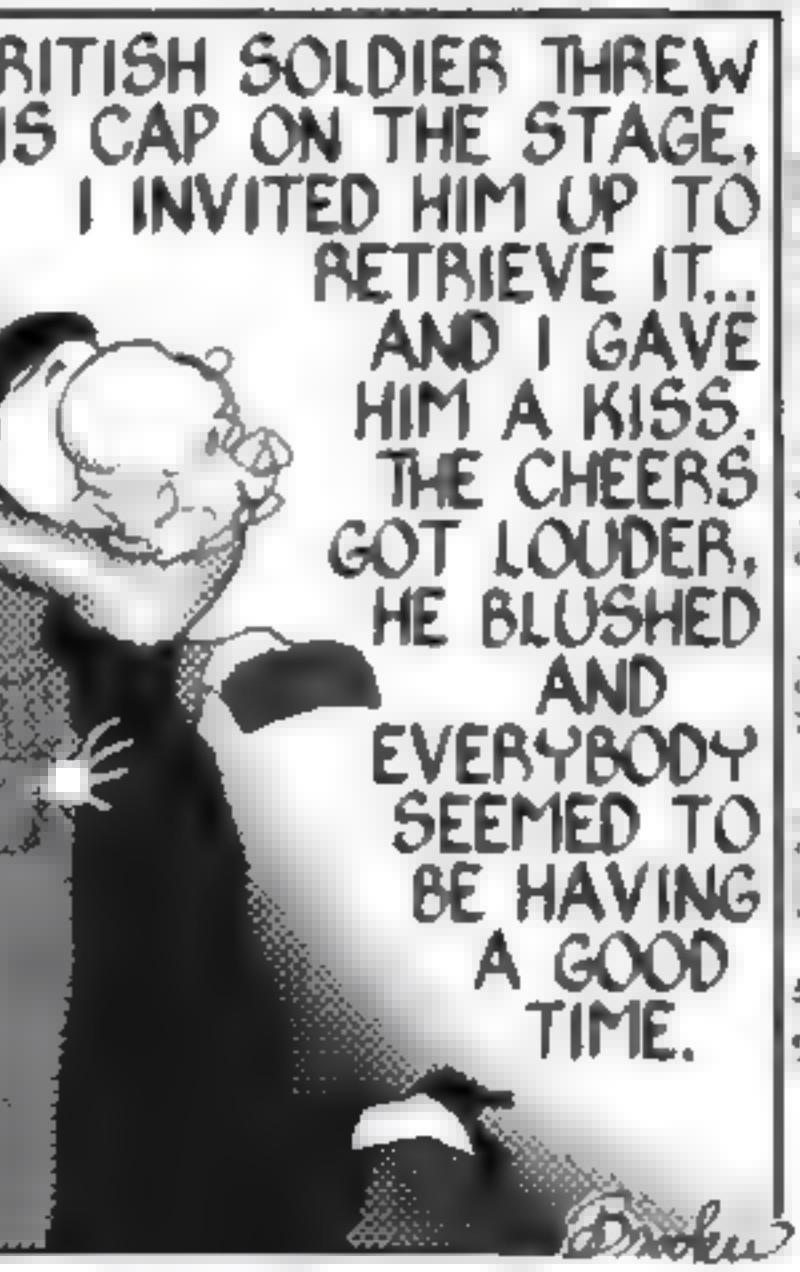
I PULLED SOME STRINGS
FOR YOU TO ENTERTAIN.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU WANT
TO DO?





"ONE THING
I CAN SAY FROM
THAT EVENING...
WHEN YOU'RE
SINGING FOR
SOLDIERS AND
SAILORS AND
AIRMEN..."

"THEY MAY
LOVE YOUR VOICE
AND YEARN FOR
YOUR SMILE...
...BUT IT'S YOUR
CABOOSE THAT
WILL WIN THEIR
HEARTS."



"A BRITISH SOLDIER THREW
HIS CAP ON THE STAGE,
I INVITED HIM UP TO
RETRIEVE IT...
AND I GAVE
HIM A KISS.
THE CHEERS
GOT LOUDER,
HE BLUSHED
AND
EVERYBODY
SEEMED TO
BE HAVING
A GOOD
TIME.

12-14



"...EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN
STANDING IN THE BACK
OF THE THEATRE."

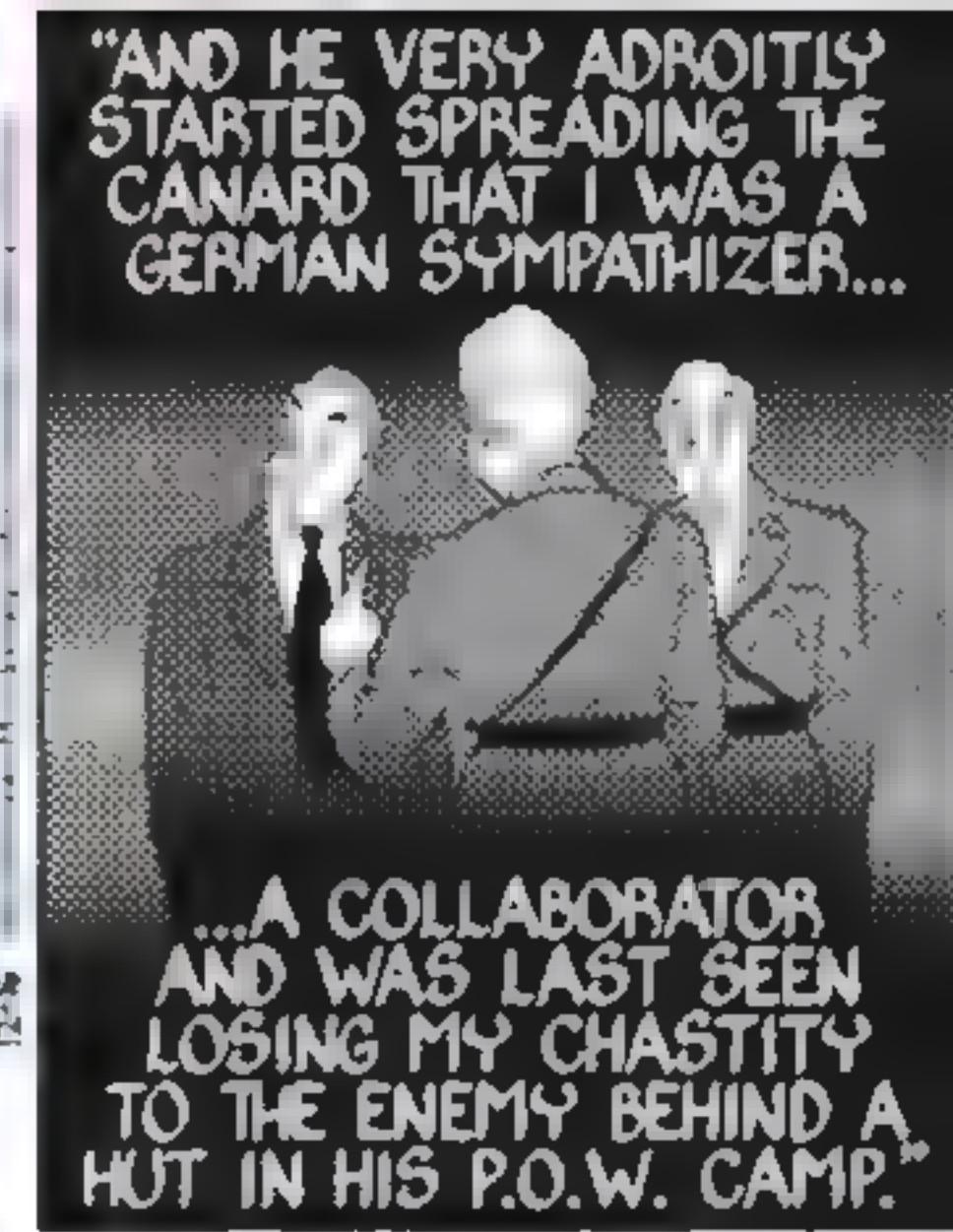
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CHICKWEED LANE

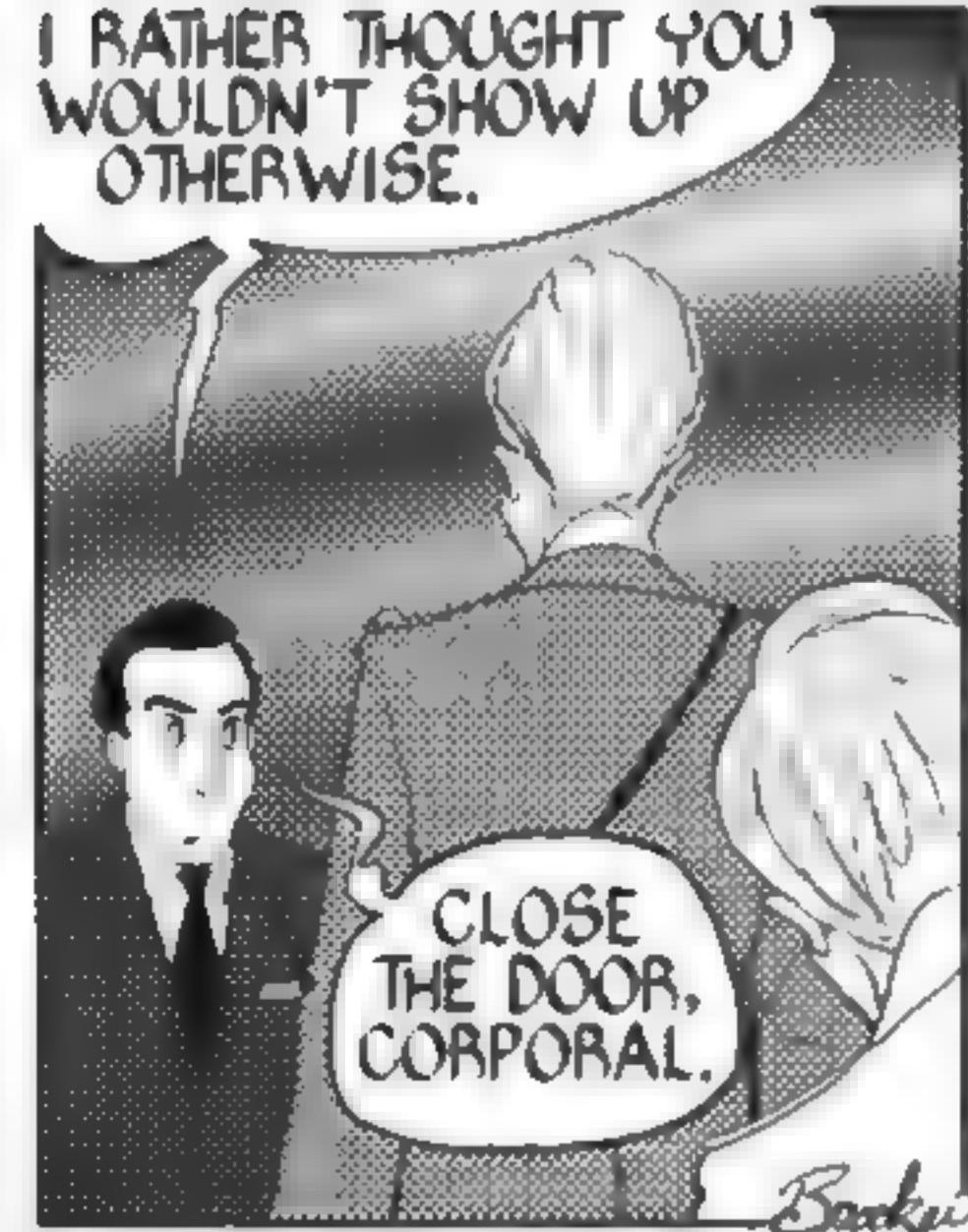
HALLMARKS
OF HUNTERNESS:
THAT FEELING

Darren

I HATE
THAT
FEELING.





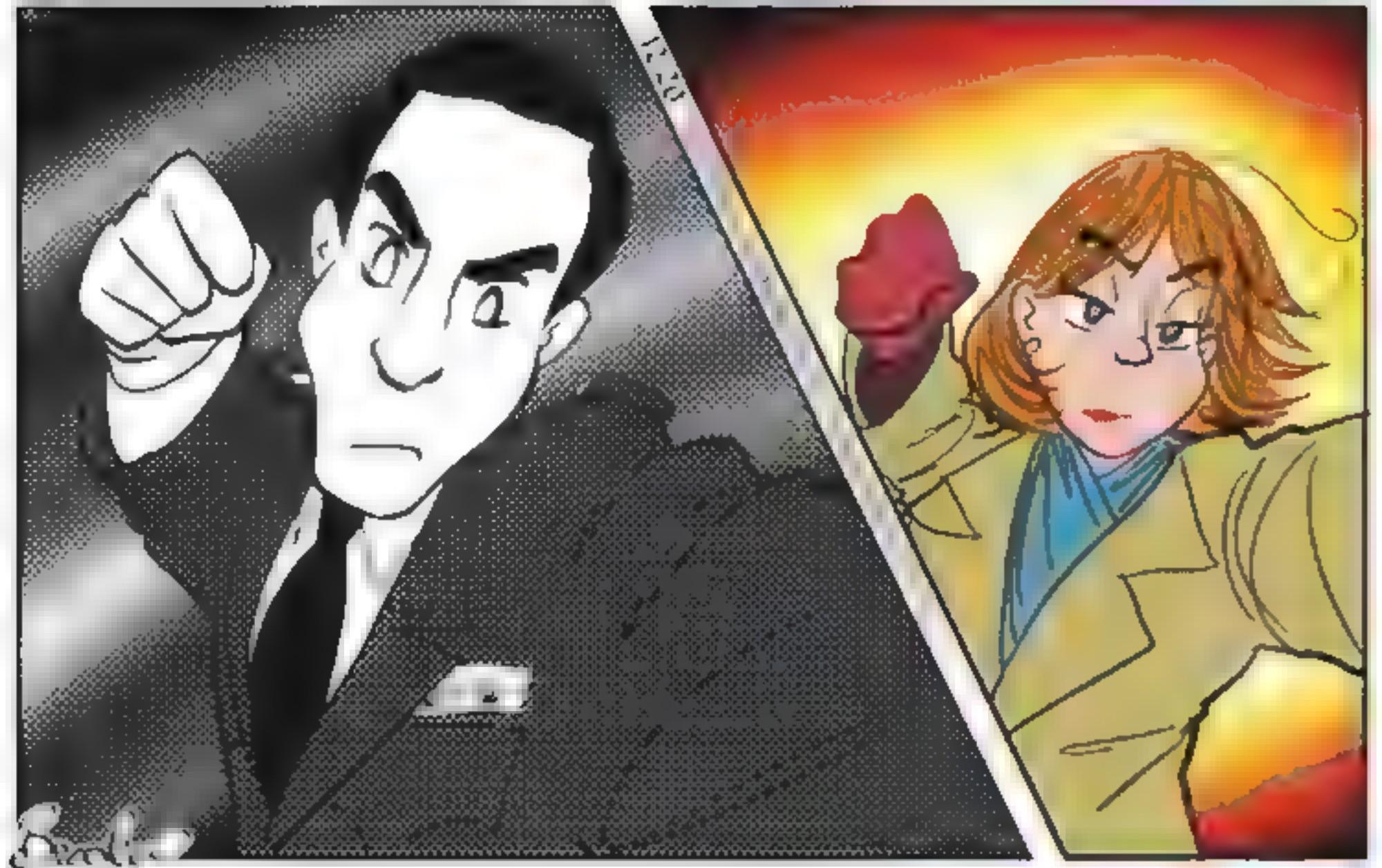


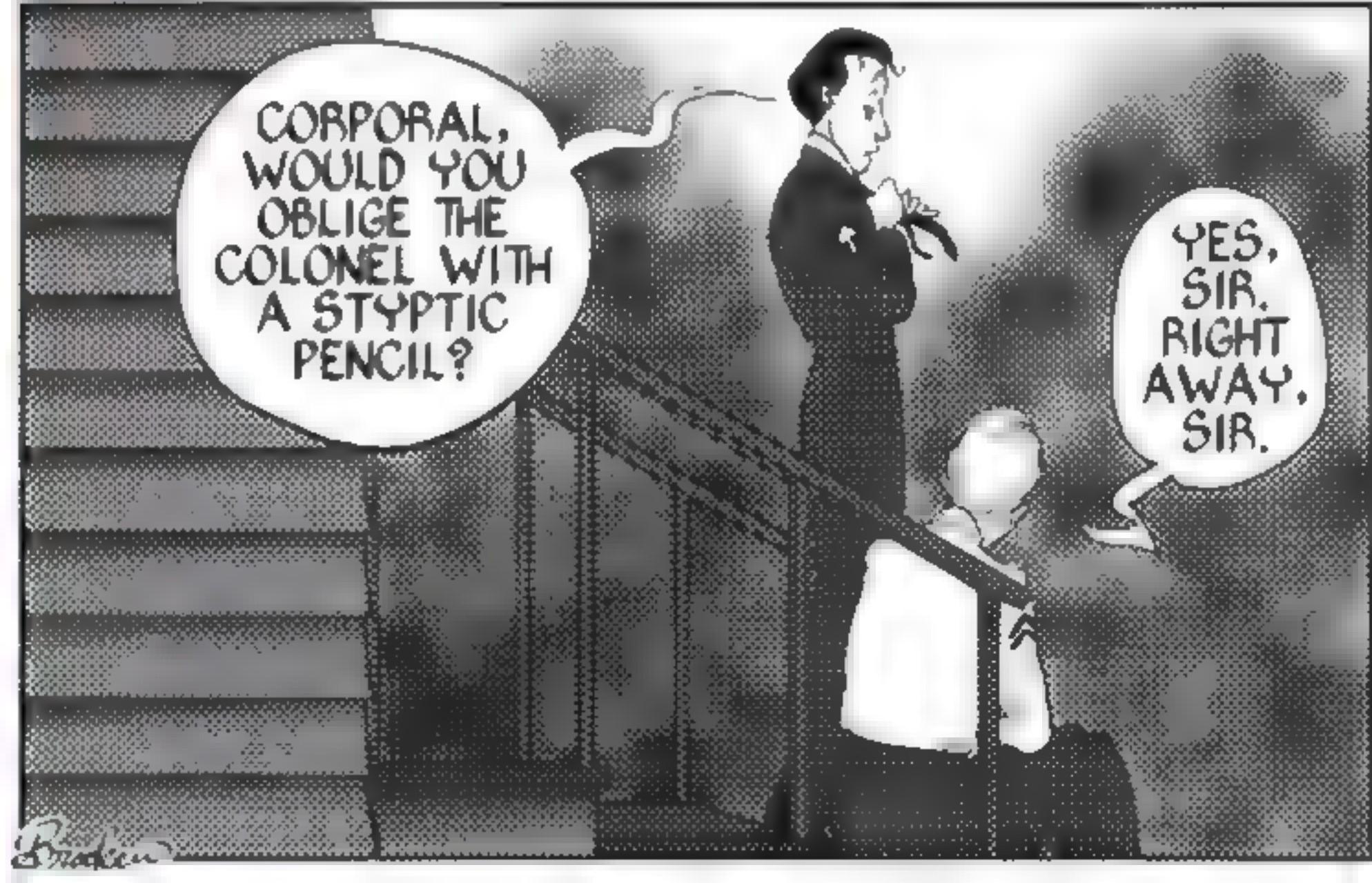
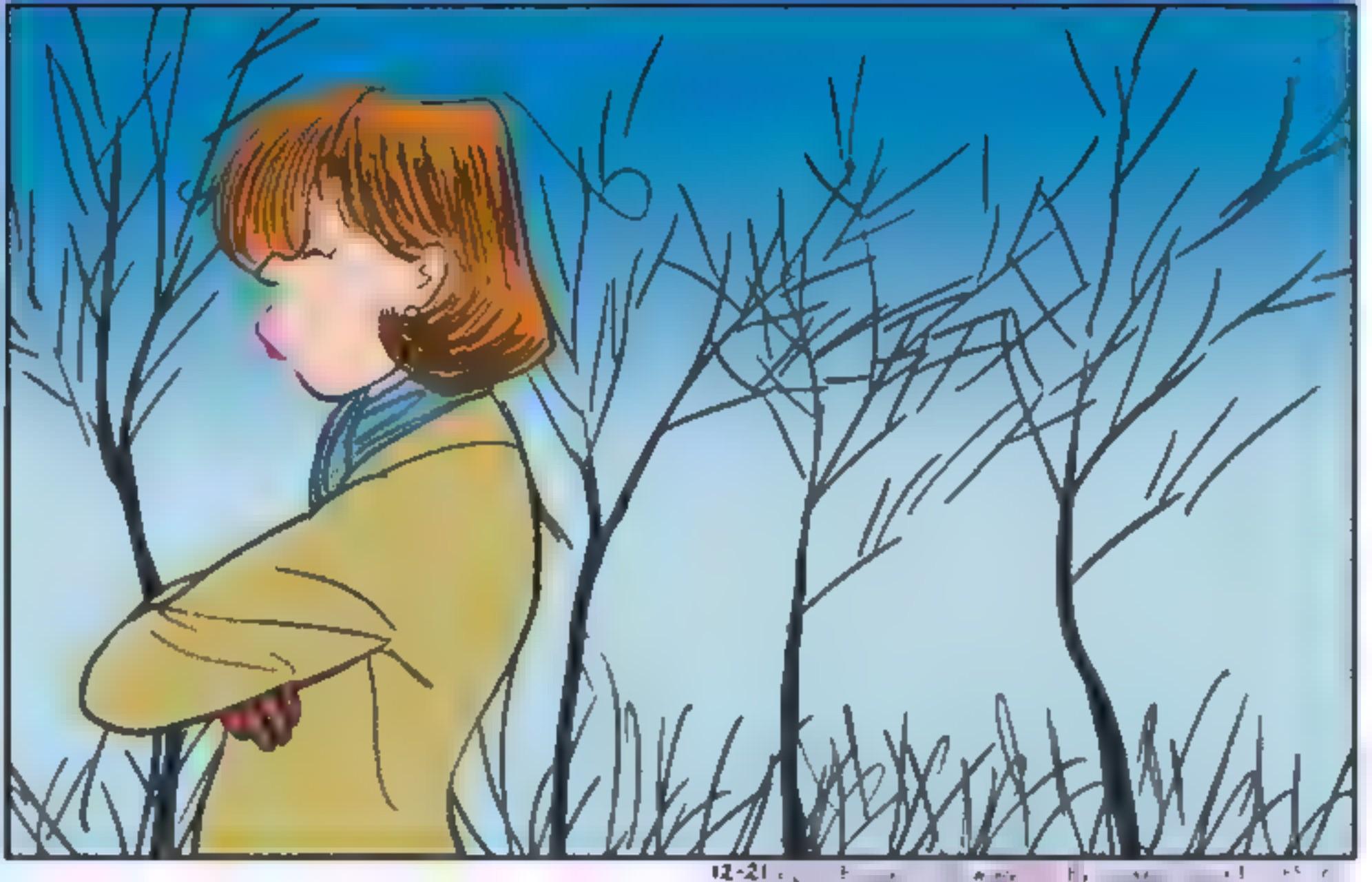
YOU WERE SPREADING SOME
SCURRILOUS LIES LAST
EVENING ABOUT MISS ERNST.
I REQUIRE YOU NOW TO
RETRACT THEM IN WRITING.
THE CORPORAL WILL TYPE
THE NECESSARY
LETTER.

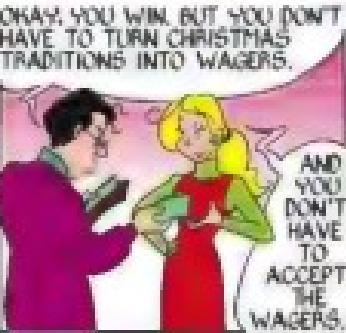


WHAT IS THIS YOUNG
WOMAN?...EISENHOWER'S
PRIVATE DOXY?...ROMMEL'S?
OR DOES SHE SHARE HER
FAVORS WITH THEM BOTH?

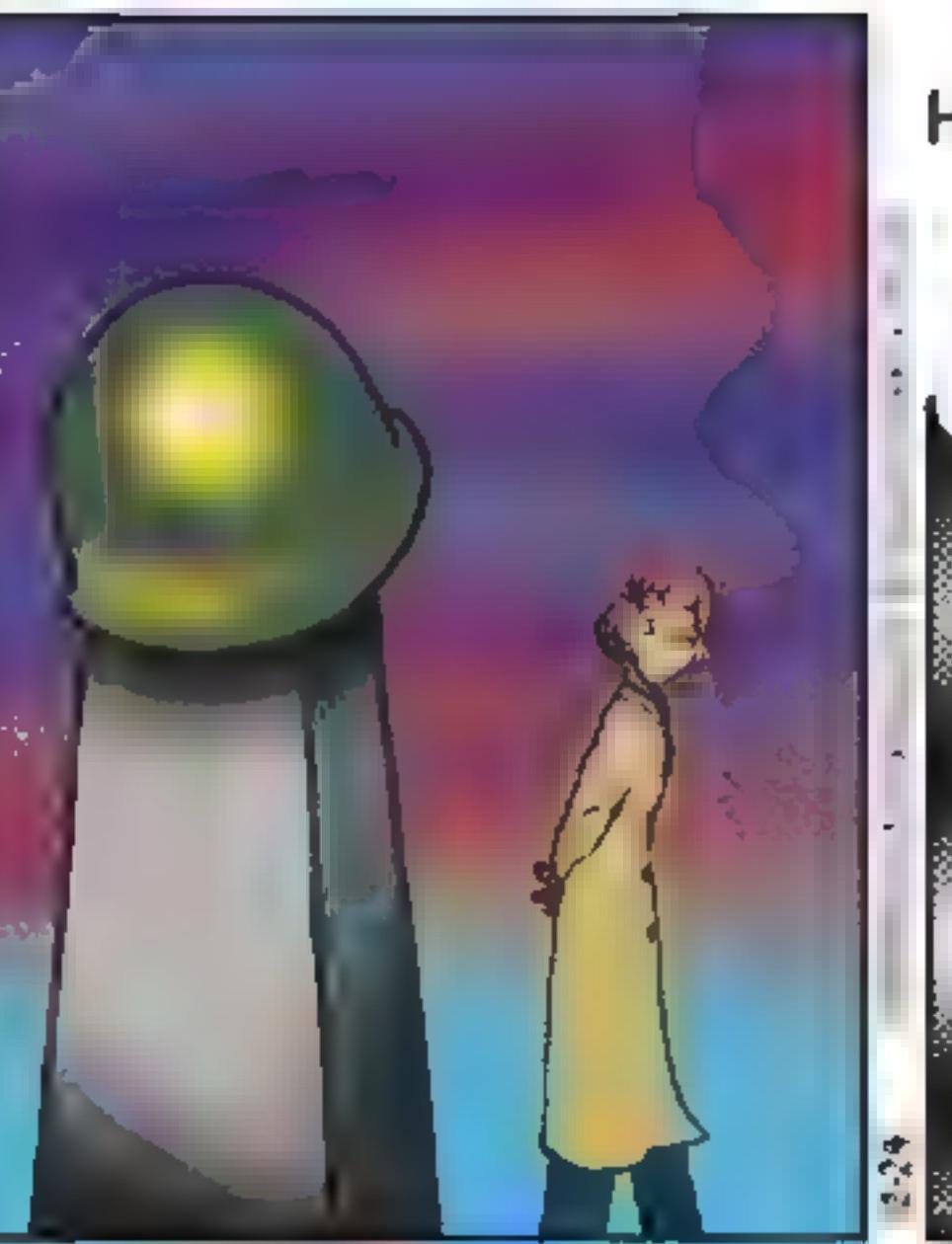


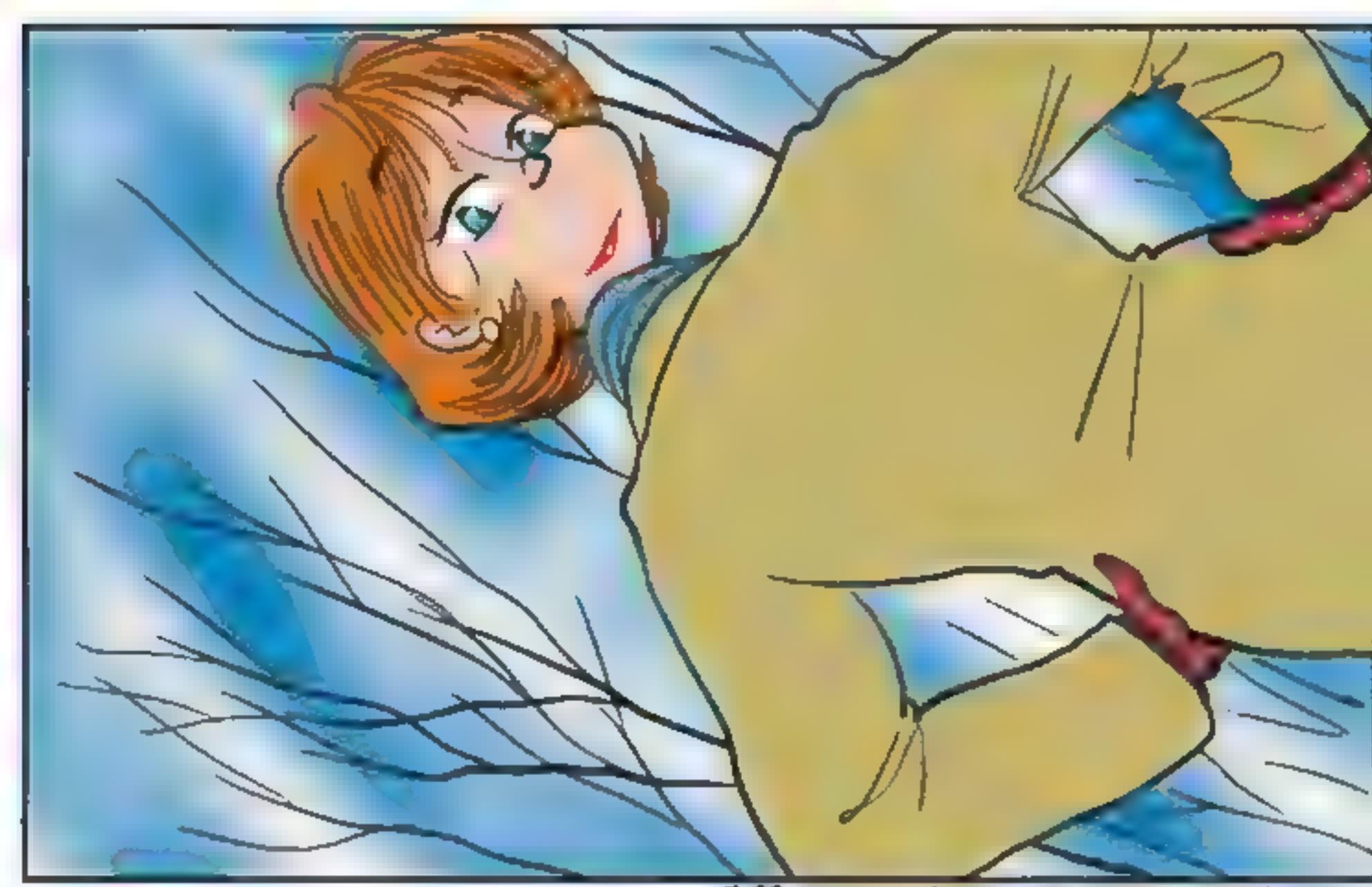


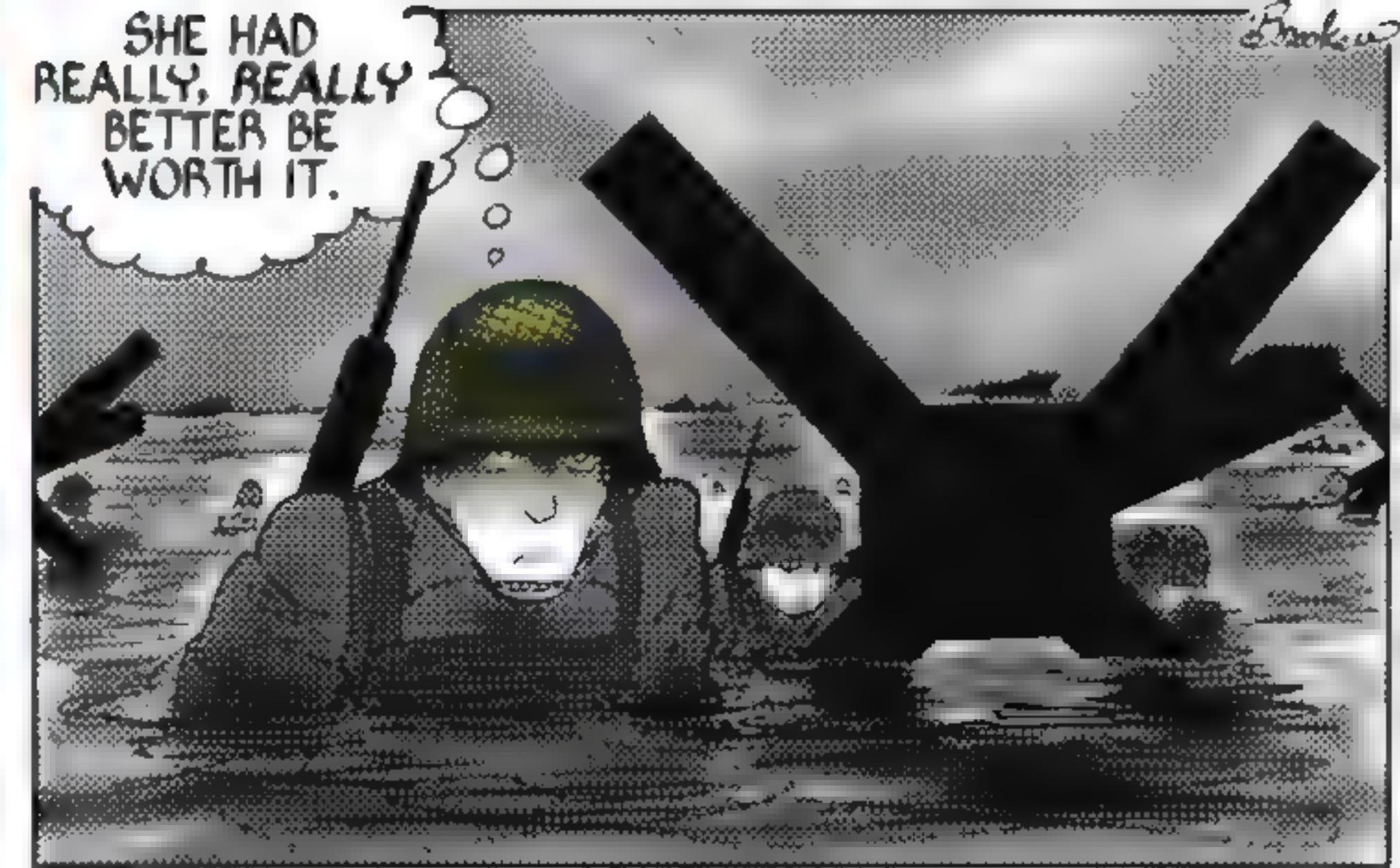
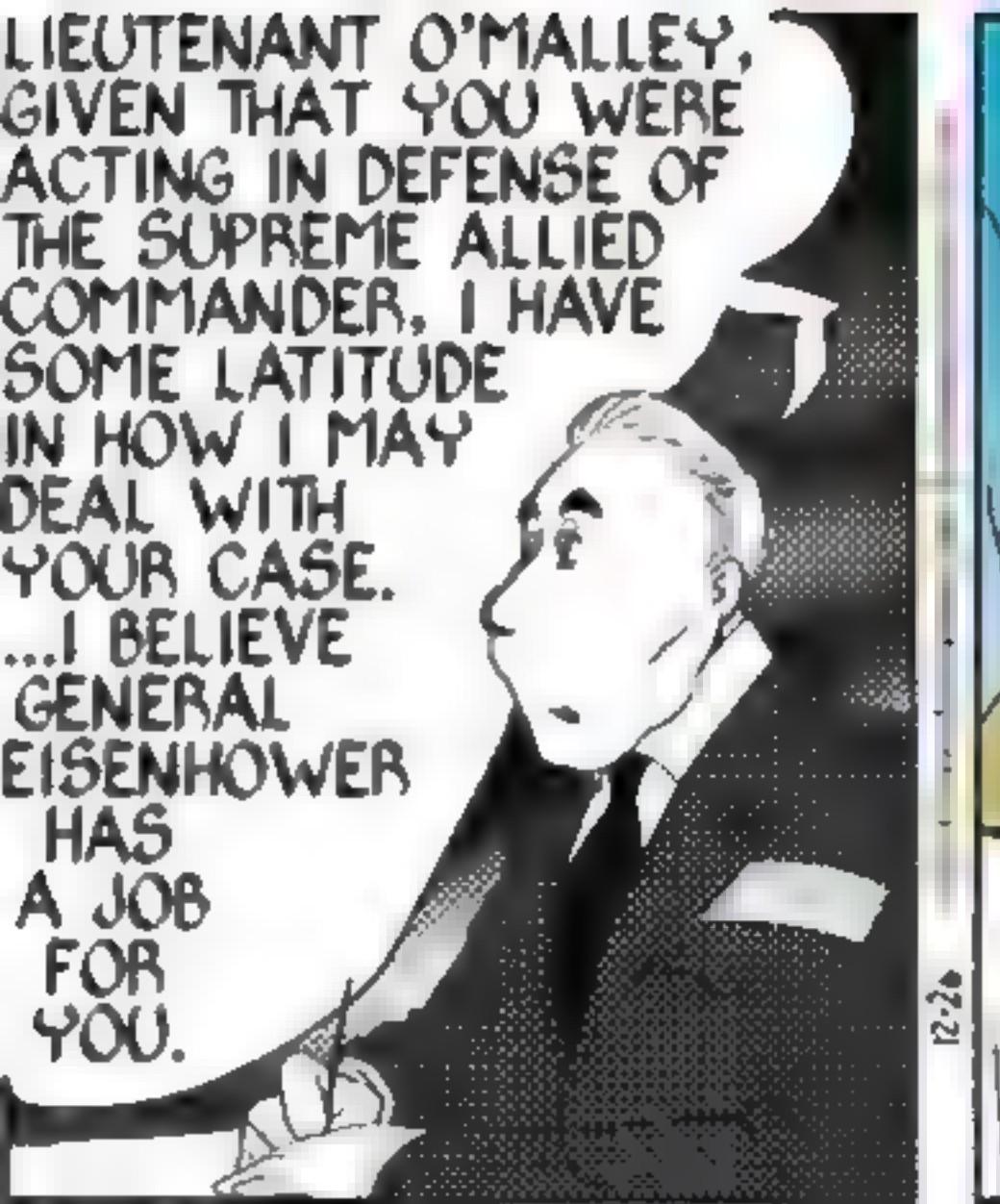


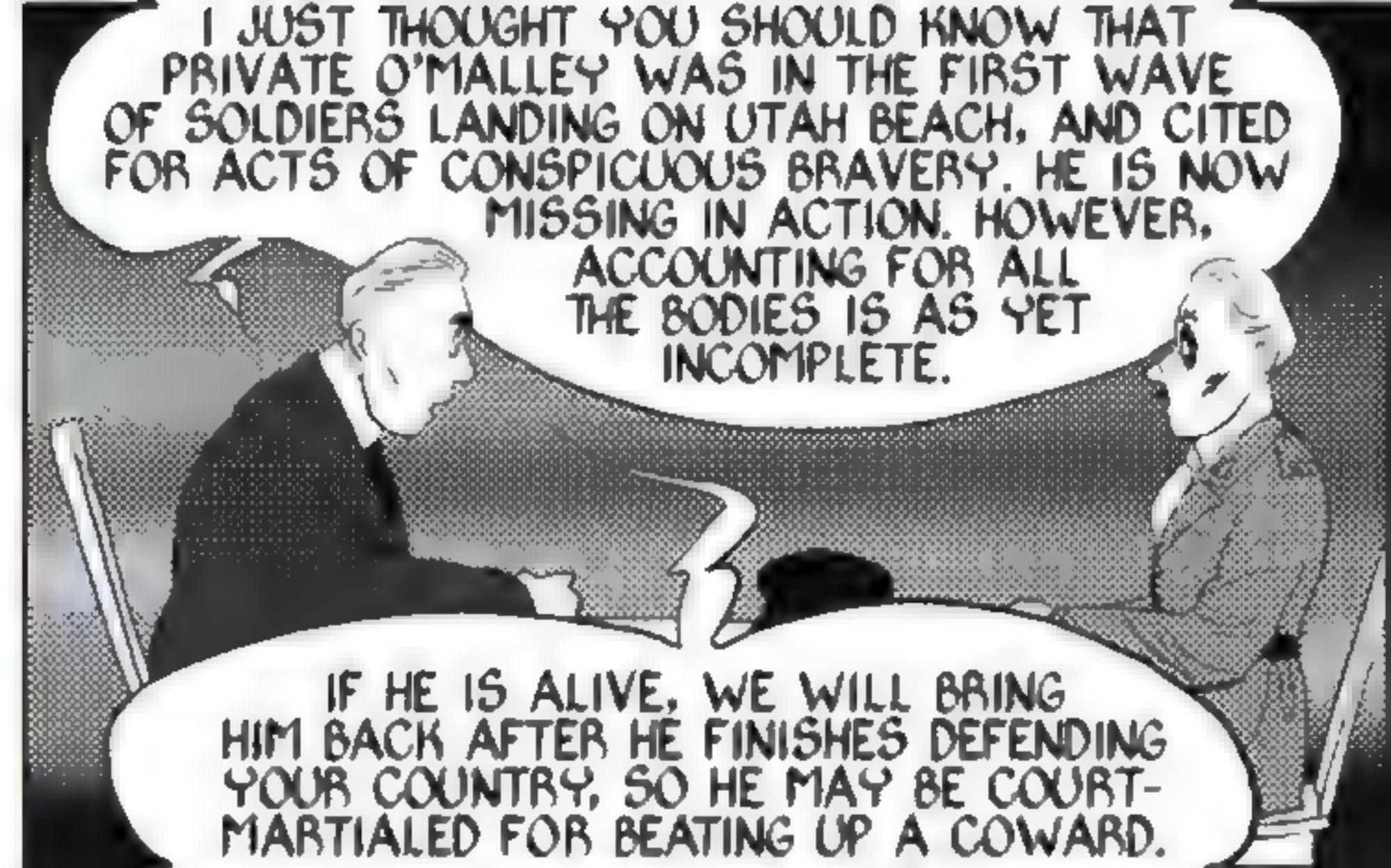
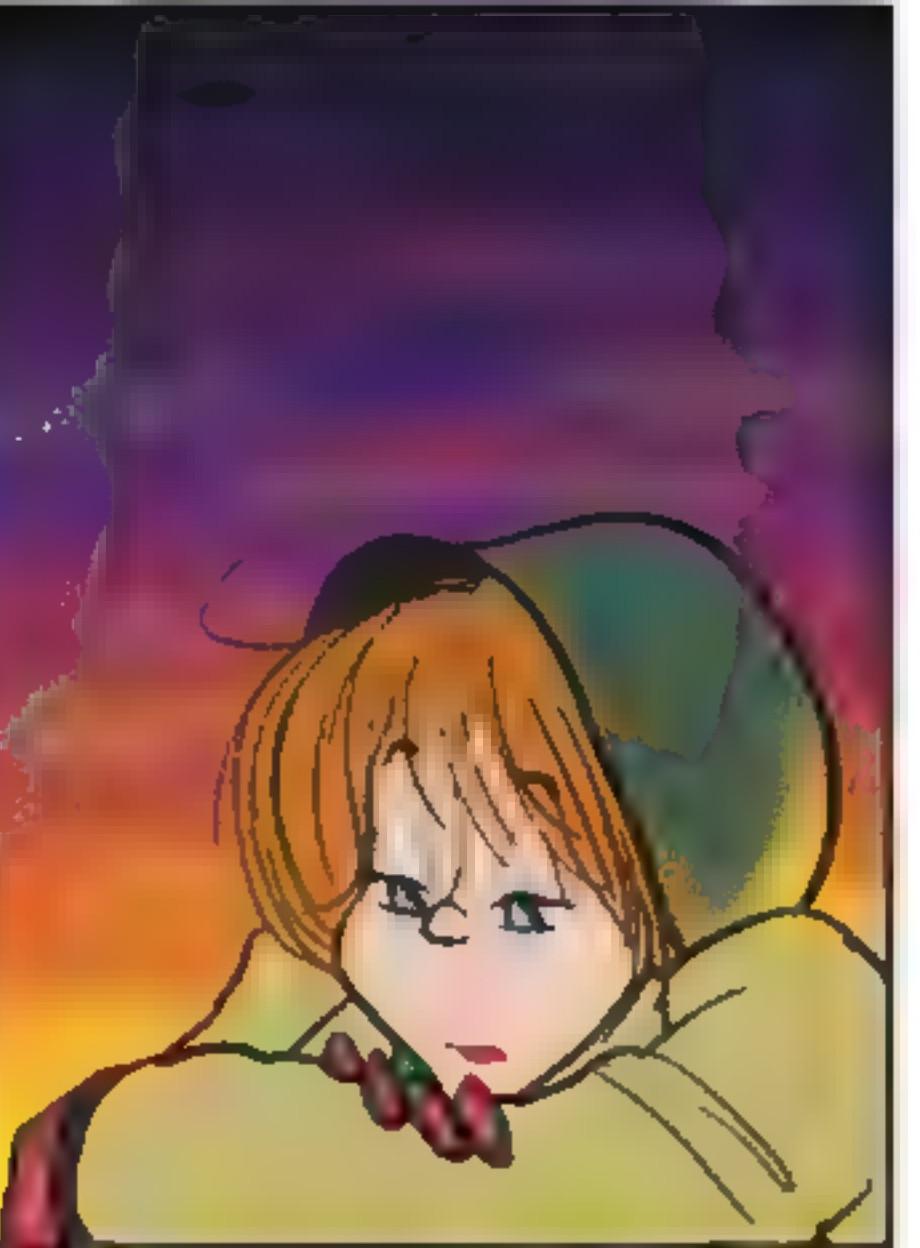
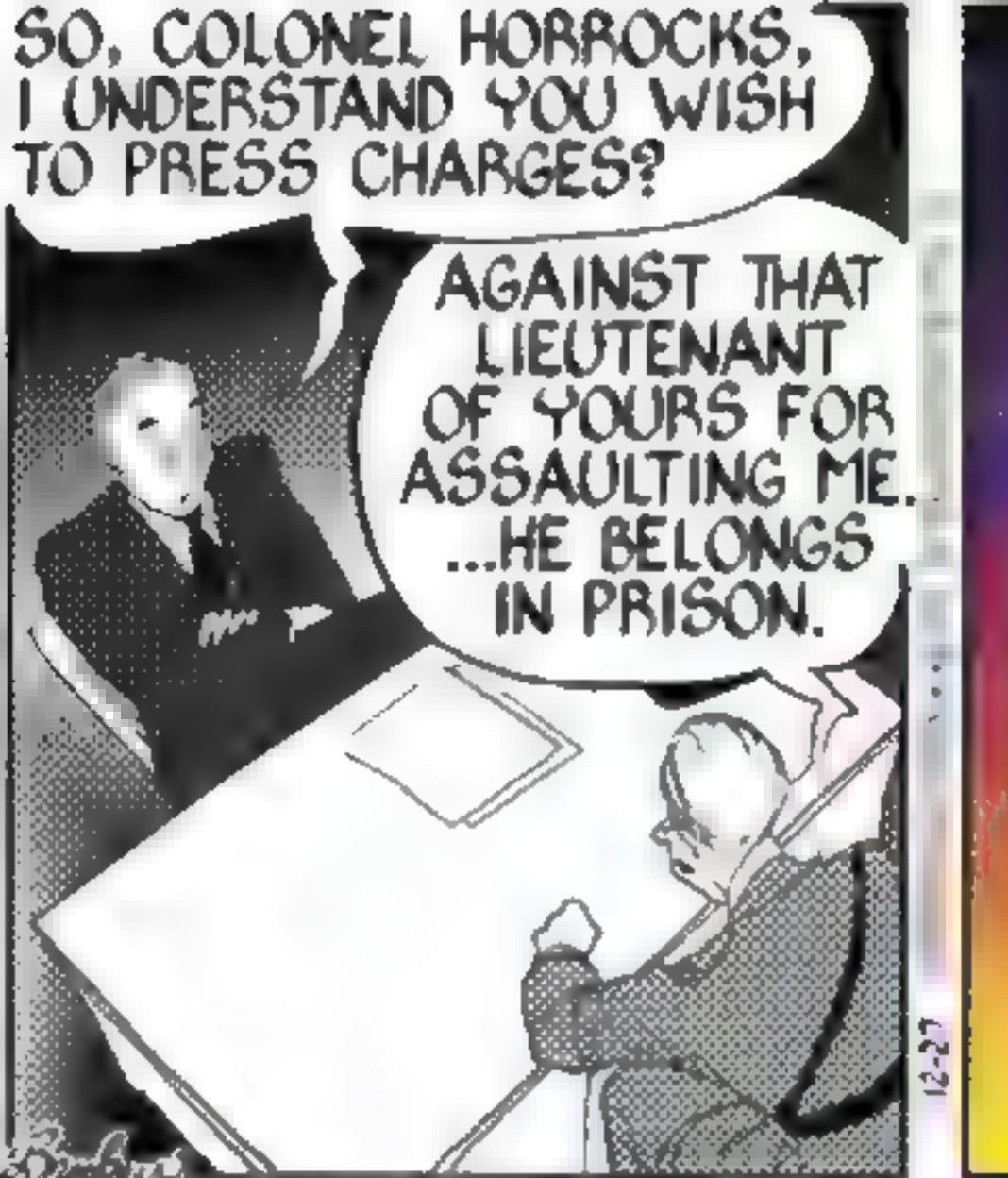


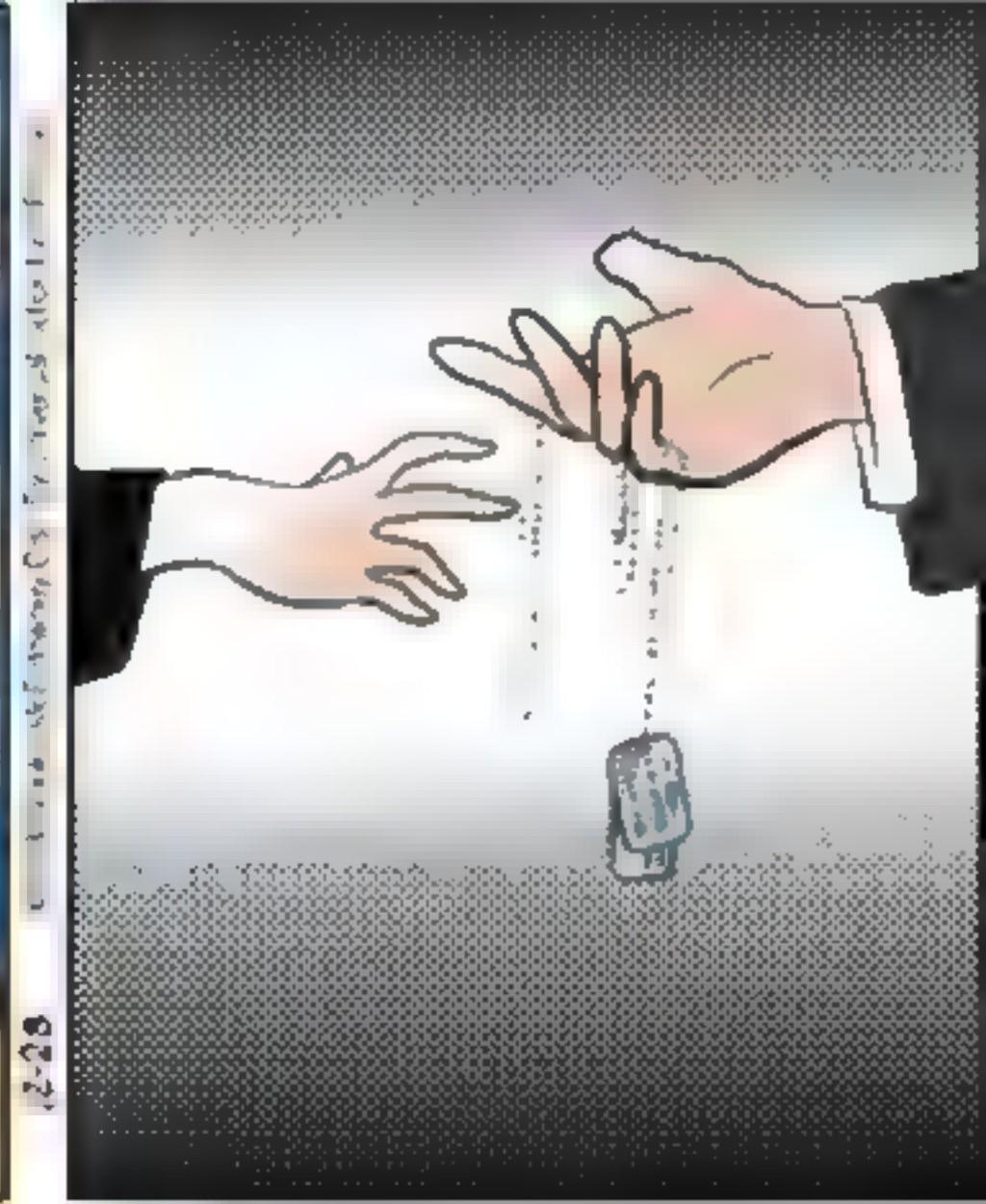
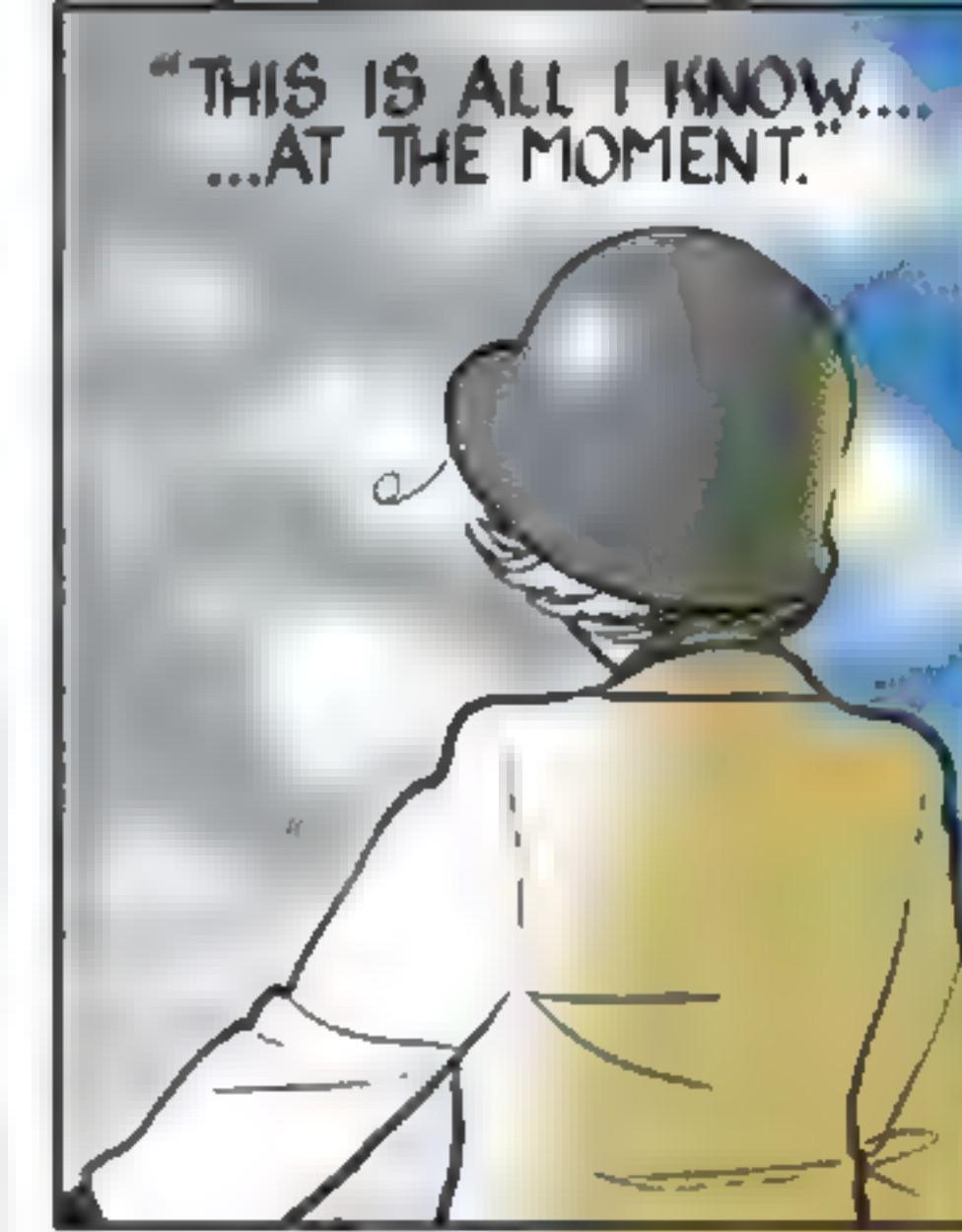




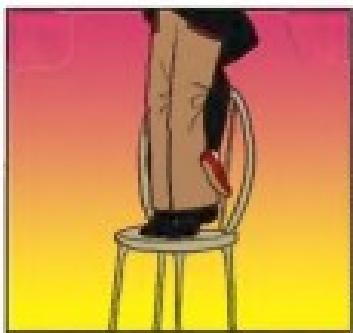
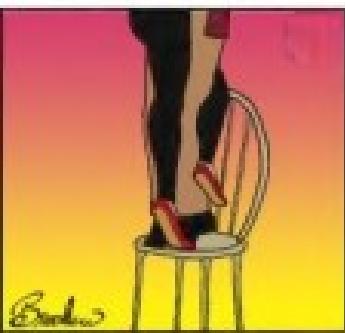


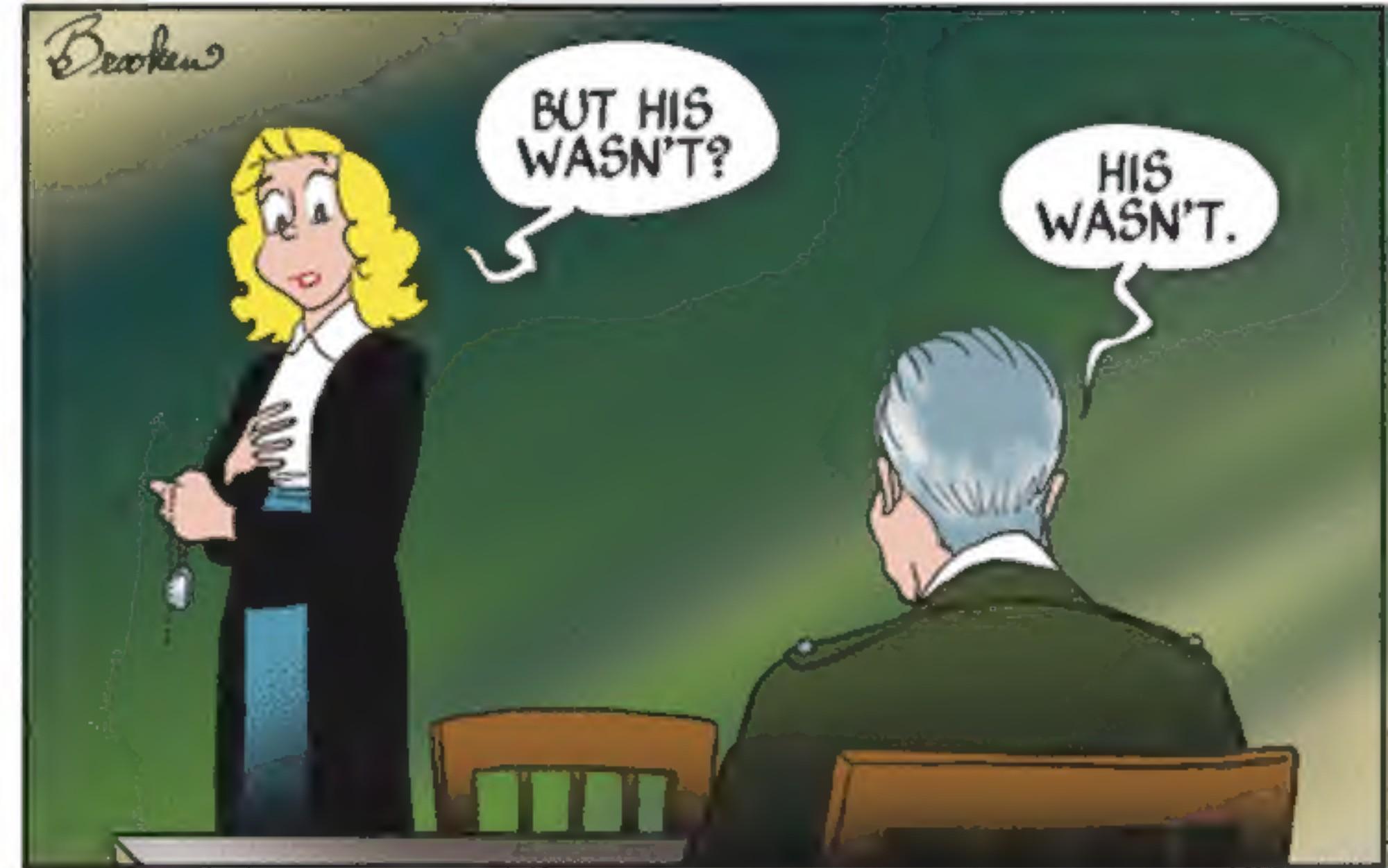
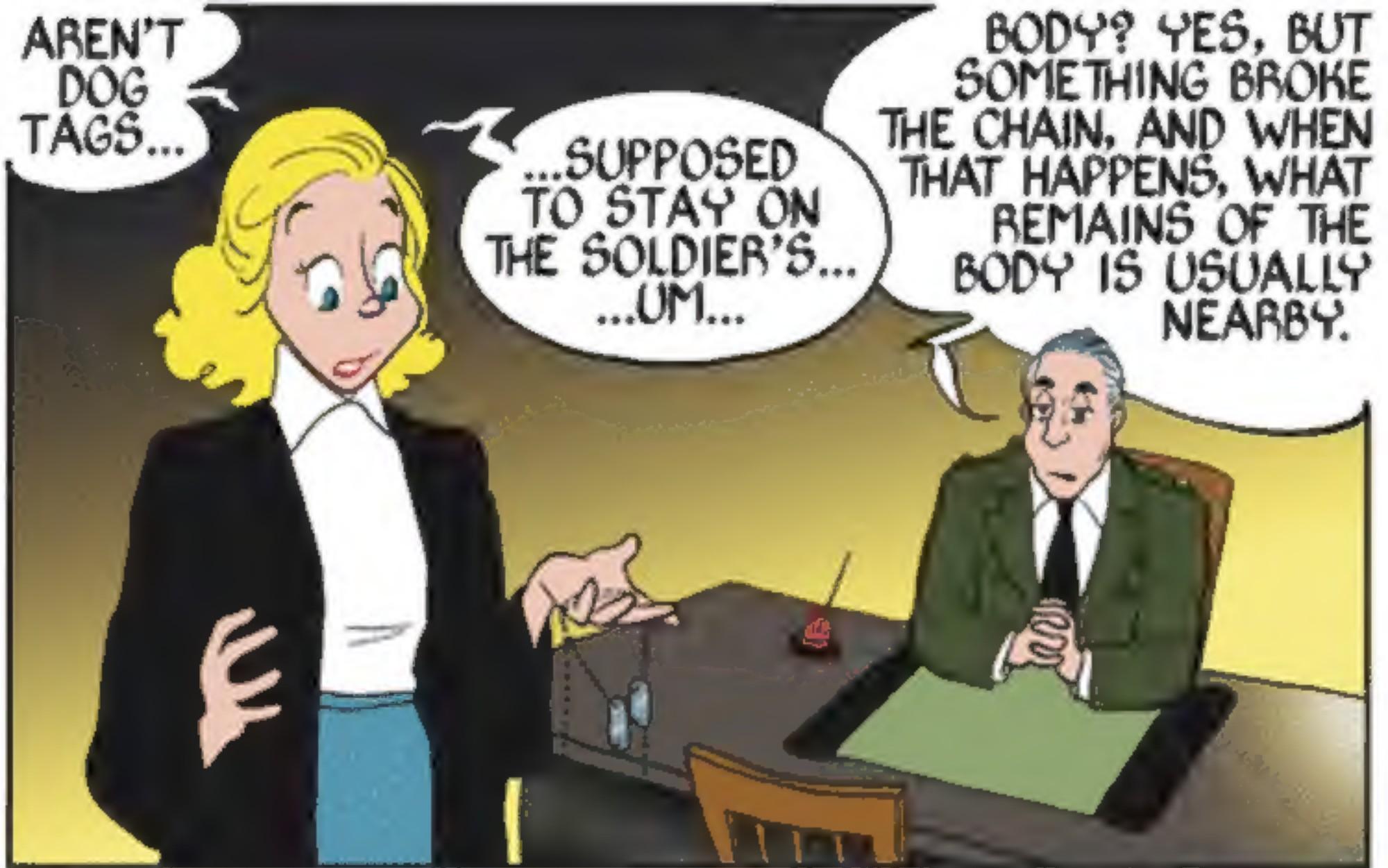


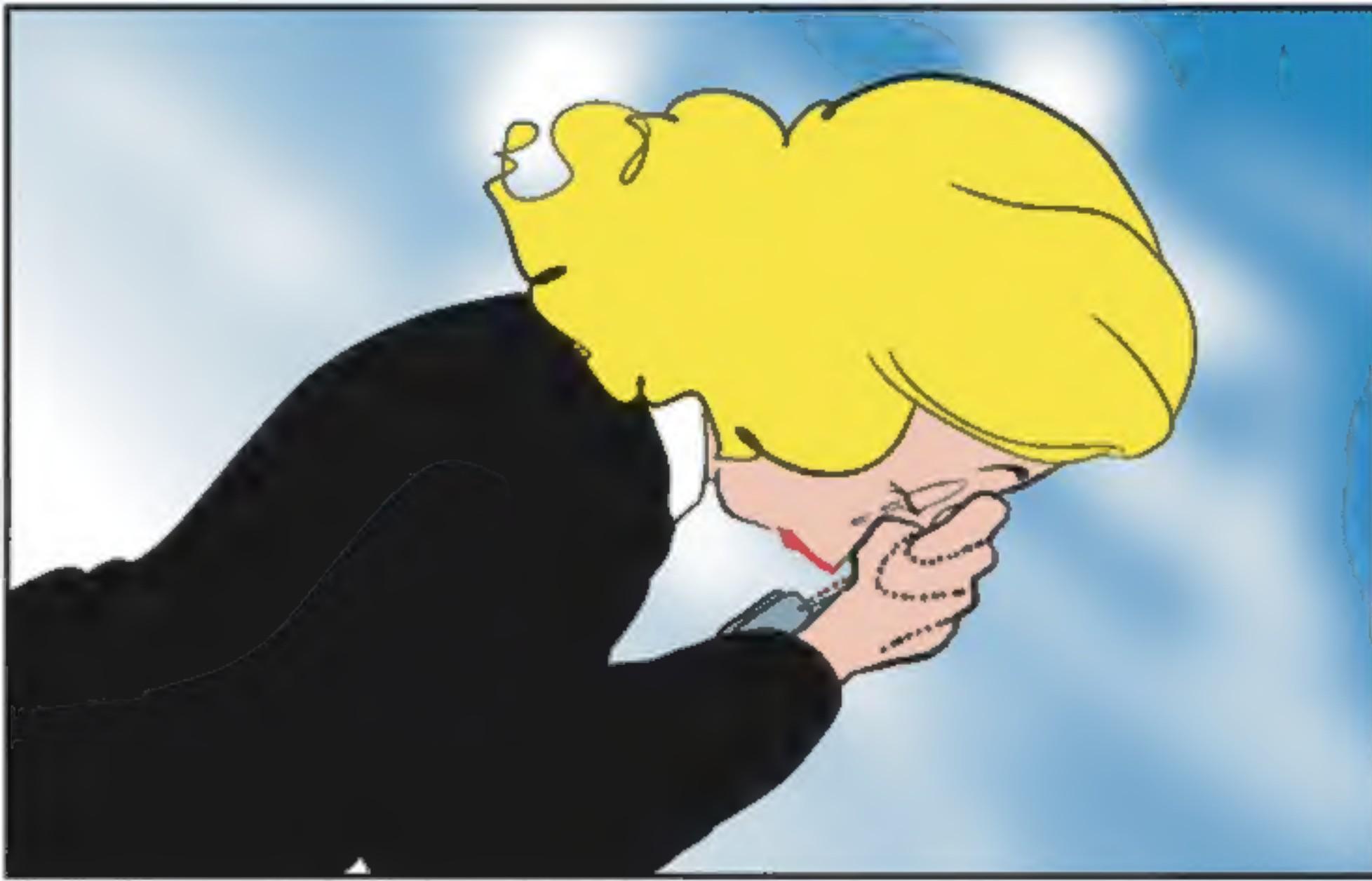




9 CHICKWEED LANE







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